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Nazarkin Criticizes Lack of Conference Progress

LD121308 Moscow TASS in English 1036 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva April 12 TASS—The leader of the Soviet delegation, Yuriy Nazarkin, speaking here today at the current Conference on Disarmament, voiced regret over the lack of a marked progress in the consideration of such major items on its agenda as the elaboration of measures to prevent an arms race in outer space, to end the nuclear arms race, to achieve nuclear disarmament, and to ban nuclear tests.

"The amount of speeches made at the conference, the number of tabled documents and of reports submitted to the UN General Assembly", the Soviet representative said, "does not obviously correspond to real headway in key directions of its work".

"Such a state of affairs must become the subject of the most serious scrutiny at the UN General Assembly's third special session on disarmament so that it could take decisions capable of giving a powerful impetus to talks on these problems which are of vital importance to mankind".

Further on Conference

LD121537 Moscow TASS in English 1509 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva April 12 TASS—At the Conference on Disarmament under way in Geneva Palace of Nations, the head of the Soviet delegation Yuriy Nazarkin expressed serious concern that marked progress is lacking in the discussion of such important items on the agenda of the conference as the working out of measures to prevent the arms race in outer space, an end to the nuclear arms race and achievement of nuclear disarmament, ban on nuclear testing.

Consistently conducting the line at preventing the militarisation of outer space, the Soviet delegation submitted to the current session of the Conference on Disarmament new concrete proposals about setting up an international space inspectorate and counts on active participation of delegates to the session in their discussions.

Yuriy Nazarkin said that in order to get off the ground the debate on the question of banning nuclear tests, which is the priority item on the agenda of the conference, the Soviet delegation is determined to look for mutually-acceptable solutions in this area, even though it does not agree to the approach of the USA which is that it is only in the process of considerable cuts in the existing nuclear arsenals that a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing can be achieved.

The Soviet Union is of the opinion that a real prospect for cutting by half the strategic offensive arms of the USSR and the USA opens already now the opportunity to start discussing at the Conference on Disarmament concrete multilateral efforts toward nuclear disarmament. The head of the Soviet delegation welcomed in this connection the statement by a representative of the PRC that China, a nuclear state, will not be avoiding its responsibility for the implementation of a comprehensive ban and elimination of nuclear weapons. At the same time one cannot but note a non-constructive approach of Western countries to the discussion of this important matter.

On the whole one has to note with much regret that as the third special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament is drawing nearer, the conference in Geneva has no reason for noting progress in the discussion of the most important items on its agenda, if one proceeds not from the number of speeches made, documents tabled and reports delivered but means genuine advance on the key directions of the conference's work. This state of affairs requires a most serious consideration at the coming special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament so that it could take decisions capable of giving a strong impetus to the talks on problems of vital importance for humanity.

Solton Views Prospects for Moscow Summit

LD121257 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] In less than 2 months' time, President Ronald Reagan of the United States is to pay a visit to Moscow. What progress has been made in the preparations for the fourth Soviet-American summit? Will the new meetings see any concrete steps towards disarmament? Radio Moscow's commentator Yuriy Solton maintains the Moscow summit can make this world safer:

Political dialogue between the leaders of the two great military and economic powers, the USSR and the United States, is always useful. Of course, it would only be naive to expect it to narrow all existing differences. Yet we've already had a chance to make sure these differences did not prevent the two countries from signing an important treaty on the elimination of two classes of nuclear missiles. So one has every reason to hope the Moscow summit will see further headway along the path of real disarmament.

Another agreement is pending, one on a 50-percent slash in strategic offensive arsenals, given the strict observance of the antiballistic missile treaty in its 1972 form and the nonwithdrawal from it for a coordinated period of time. Vigorous work has been on in Geneva to draft the relevant documents. No use guessing whether the delegations will manage to complete this work by the time the Moscow summit begins.

Many other points too are yet to be cleared up. And still one would like to hope the coming talks between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan will be marked by progress in this direction too. As for the Soviet Union, it will build up no barriers in the way of agreement.

One can point out with satisfaction that some pronouncements by the American President indicate that he, too, attaches considerable importance to the planned trip to Moscow. He is hoping to bring with him the INF Treaty already ratified by the Senate. The agenda is expected to include issues pertaining to disarmament, bilateral relations, regional conflicts, and human rights. Moscow is ready for dialogue of this kind. However, this dialogue could only be useful if the serious discussion would not slide down to mutual accusations or artificial challenges. And this, regrettably, was what the President failed to avoid both in his Saturday radio address to the nation and in his Las Vagas speech at the annual convention of the National TV and Radio Broadcasting Association. It is only to be hoped that his statement that the only possible kind of dialogue with the Soviet Union was one from the position of strength was meant to impress the audience, rather than reflect his actual viewpoint. Washington is certainly aware of the fact that any dialogue with the Soviet Union must be based on the principle of equality. It was this kind of approach and the placement of accent on the search for mutually acceptable ways to resolve the common problem, that is averting the nuclear menace rather than on the existing differences, that once facilitated the conclusion of the important missile agreement.

One would like to hope the coming summit in Moscow will be permeated with this kind of spirit.

Kazakhstan Prepares for Missile Destruction

LD121215 Moscow TASS in English 1153 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Saryozek (Kazakhstan) April 12 TASS—TASS special correspondent Vladimir Akimov reports:

Preparations for practical realisation of the Soviet-U.S. INF Treaty has been completed here today exactly one month since the arrival of the first trains with missile equipment from Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic.

The Kazakhstan steppes which became world famed as the launch site of Soviet space rocket technology are for the first time becoming a site of the elimination of a whole class of missiles.

The exercises the course of which, together with military specialists and ecologists, was watched by Soviet journalists, covered the entire range of work connected with the elimination of shorter-range missiles. Missile bodies are brought here without warheads. The extraction of a nuclear device from the warhead is done at special plants. One group of officers and men practiced techniques for the delivery of missiles to storage area while another one removed instruments and electrical equipment from the batch of OTR-22 (SS-12) and OTR-23 (SS-23) missiles selected for the exercises. The first two sets of missiles were blown up during the first exercises on April 8.

"Valuable materials, including gold and platinum will be also extracted from this set," explained Colonel Victor Leshchenko, deputy head of the USSR Defence Ministry's centre for controlling the elimination of shorter-range missiles. "All the remaining assemblies and parts will be turned over for economic uses."

Incidentally, as was already reported, the high-powered truck tractors which transported the missiles are to be converted in due course into cross-country vehicles for geologists and cranes for builders.

Another group of officers and men delivered the missiles allotted for the exercises to the elimination site. It is located at a distance of several tens of kilometres from Saryozek in a deep hollow surrounded by hills. Experts maintain that damage caused by demolitions to the environment would be the least there.

American experts (just as Soviet ones in the United States) will monitor the accurate fulfilment of conditions for missiles' elimination which will begin after the INF Treaty is ratified in the Soviet Union and the United States.

An observation post has been set up specially for U.S. experts in a concrete bunker on one of the hills. For the time being journalists are now there watching how field engineers far down below are busy bundling missiles into two packages of four and six missiles, surround them with dynamite blocks, and how scientists are installing instruments.

A command was given, and Captain Viktor Melnik closed the circuit, demolishing the first package of missiles. Several seconds later a helicopter took off to survey the demolition site.

A shallow crater remained on the site of the elimination of the missiles. Small pieces of metal were discovered only after a survey of the adjacent territory. "All the rest burnt up during the explosion. The collected metal will be remelted," said the director of the exercises, Major General Leonid Bugrov.

Verification Talks in Progress in Sochi

LD122320 Moscow TASS in English 2202 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Sochi April 12 TASS—The positions of the American and Soviet sides are similar in that they assign an important role to verification in implementing any agreement in the disarmament field, Robert Barker, assistant to the Secretary of Defense, told a briefing for journalists in Sochi. He attends here a meeting of experts on verification issues as part of the United Nations worldwide campaign for disarmament.

The sessions are closed. During the break newsmen succeeded in meeting Robert Barker and Ambassador Oleg Grinevskiy, USSR. They presented reports on one and the same theme: a review of relationship between the verification of agreements on arms limitation and disarmament and security.

Given the general consensus in evaluating the importance of verification, the sides still have to work a good deal to come to grips with the technical details of verification. The negotiations on concluding one or another agreement on disarmament should be conducted concurrently with the development of respective verification measures. Verification is an important component of any agreement, Barker said.

Said Grinevskiy: "Having common principles in the verification field, we should still get a concord in working out specific details and methods. But common principles are in themselves an important political achievement of the two countries. The concurrence of our standpoints on verification is the spirit of the times, the fruitful result of the vast work which was accomplished on the disarmament issues at the summit meeting in Washington."

The quest for new ideas, original approaches and challenging solutions are, possibly, needed nowhere as sorely as in the disarmament verification field, Oleg Grinevskiy went on. The reality of the modern world is such that mankind's survival, the security of each country can be guaranteed not by military but political means of which disarmament is the key one.

Barker noted that the conclusions and proposals to be made by experts in Sochi will be taken into account in discussing the verification issues at the summit meeting in Moscow. He added that each agreement should have its own specific verification measures.

Grinevskiy said that the question arises of setting up an international organisation within the U.N. framework to verify compliance with agreements on disarmament. It will be able to reflect the interests of all countries, big and small, preserving in so doing impartially and authority [as received]. The meeting of experts is continued.

Soviet Specialist Interviewed on U.S. Bases

PM121129 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Interview with Doctor of Economic Sciences S. Ye. Blagovolin, sector chief of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of World Economy and International Relations, by correspondent A. Portanskiy: "U.S. Military Bases: Why They Exist"; date and place of interview not given—first two paragraphs are IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] The so-called U.S. "base strategy" has with its global nature generated in the postwar period numerous acute contradictions and even critical moments in Washington's mutual relations with other capitals and in international relations as a whole. "From Madrid to Manila," U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT wrote not so long ago, "satellites and other allegedly friendly countries are threatening to cancel the United States' rights to bases, seeking to restrict the use of foreign sites or demanding new handouts for keeping them."

What are the aims of U.S. "base strategy?" Does it have a future in our time and, finally, is there an alternative to this policy? Your IZVESTIYA correspondent talks about this with Doctor of Economic Sciences S.Ye. Blagovolin, sector chief of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of World Economy and International Relations, the author of a number of studies on questions of the capitalist countries' military policy and economy.

[Blagovolin] First of all, I should probably answer the question of what the United States was seeking in creating an enormous number (over 1,500) of military bases abroad. I think that several aims were being pursued simultaneously. The first and main aim was the "encirclement" of the USSR around the entire perimeter of its borders, the "taking out" of U.S. military might beyond the United States' own territory in order to bring it nearer to a likely enemy and to have more favorable conditions for its possible use. The second aim is the "stricter" inclusion of a whole series of countries in the global military structure the United States is creating right up to the point where in the event of a conflict the situation itself would essentially leave these countries with no choice but to be drawn into it almost automatically. The third aim is logically linked to the first two and consists in the need to create "strongholds" without which the actions of the navy, strategic and military transport aircraft, and so forth would be extremely difficult. It should be noted that a number of very large and important U.S. bases are a considerable distance from the USSR's borders, for instance on the island of Diego Garcia, in Australia, the Philippines, and so forth, and are not directly connected with the task of "encircling" the USSR. But that in no way means that no threat to our country can emanate from these areas.

[Portanskiy] Can it be considered that the United States has achieved the goals it has set?

[Blagovolin] I would not give a single answer to this question. But we should immediately emphasize a very important and in my view fundamental fact. Our country's attainment of strategic parity with the United States has also substantially reduced the value of the bases and consequently the degree of the threat emanating from them. It would be wrong, of course, to believe that these bases have turned into innocuous installations. Nonetheless, the situation has radically changed. In that sense, the main aim of the "base strategy"—obtaining military superiority over the USSR—has not been achieved. But as for "binding" other countries to themselves, including, in a number of cases, support for unstable regimes oriented to the United States, and as for creating a ramified system of "strongholds," here, in my view, the Americans have been substantially successful although, of course, it is in far from everything that they have succeeded.

[Portanskiy] The Americans now frequently admit that they are encountering growing resistance to the dissemination of their military might throughout the world. Reports of protests against U.S. bases are coming in from various corners....

[Blagovolin] There has never been a time when everything went smoothly with the U.S. bases. From the outset their emergence was accompanied by resolute public protests in the relevant countries. Now, as is well known, the governments of some states (Greece and Spain, for instance) are insisting on a revision of existing agreements and the reduction of U.S. military presence or even the elimination of bases on their territory. The most recent example is the talks with Spain about the Air Force base at Torrejon.

There are many reasons for this. Above all, of course, the threat which the bases create to the country in which they are sited, particularly those where nuclear weapons can be located or are located. There are sufficient grounds for believing that the United States is violating the nuclear-free status of individual states, of Japan, for instance. In other cases, as the piratical attack on Libya in 1986 showed, the U.S. bases are used to perpetrate acts of direct aggression. A new problem is also arising now: A whole series of U.S. bases on foreign territories may be used in one form or another to implement the "Strategic Defense Initiative." And that would mean the voluntary or involuntary involvement of the countries where they are sited in a very dangerous spiral of the arms race. Well, and finally, a constant source of dissatisfaction and indignation in the countries where U.S. bases are sited is the behavior of U.S. servicemen who as a rule are exempt from the jurisdiction of the local authorities.

In brief, the negative consequences of the presence of U.S. military bases are sufficiently widely known.

[Portanskiy] So why are these Pentagon establishments on foreign soil preserved to this day?

[Blagovolin] The point is that the bases are part of a far broader problem: the problem of U.S. military presence in various parts of the world. And that problem is very complex. Dissatisfaction and protests against U.S. bases are one side of the question. But there is also another. The years when security was seen merely as the buildup of military might—one's own and that of one's allies—and when the arms race was viewed as an unvarying component of the two systems' antagonism have done their job. As a result a number of states, and not only their governments but also a substantial proportion of their population, for all their reservations still consider the U.S. military presence to be an important condition for safeguarding their own security.

And one more aspect of the problem which occupies a considerable place in Western geopolitics. The entire capitalist economy now is a truly dense weave of mutual ties and mutual dependence and there is even a tendency toward the fusion of the economies of various countries and, finally, by virtue of the geographical factor, there is a global system of ocean communications whose violation would undoubtedly signify a catastrophe for the economy of all capitalist and many developing countries. So this global interweaving of economic ties in the capitalist economy gives grounds, albeit subjectively, for a foreign military presence.

Many Western politicians and mass media persistently adhere to the thought that the composition and structure of the Soviet Armed Forces has a clearly expressed offensive nature, that these forces are designed not so much to defend Soviet interests in various parts of the world as to pursue an "expansionist policy," to "destroy" the existing system of vitally important mutual ties within the framework of the world capitalist economy.

This argument, connected to entrenched ideas of the aims and tasks of the USSR's military policy, played an important part in the process of the rapprochement and coordination of their actions in the military sphere with the United States and its NATO allies by the most diverse countries and in the perception of U.S. military presence as the only "real defense" against the constant growth of "Soviet military power." In this connection we must admit that unfortunately until recently not only the citizens of other countries but also our compatriots had to draw information about Soviet military building, including about our military presence in particular regions, from extremely dubious foreign sources.

[Portanskiy] Here we have obviously approached a broader problem: Who is really threatening whom and whose military power presents the greater danger? [Blagovolin] Absolutely right. It is clear to us, to our readers, and to our country's friends that the Soviet Union has never intended and does not intend to attack anyone, that our actions in the field of building the armed forces are so to speak of a "retaliatory nature," that we have been compelled to take part in the arms race. But, I repeat, only we and our friends understand this. I will not touch in detail on a well-known theme—the West's deliberate exaggeration of our military might and the understatement of its own. But I will say a few words nonetheless. Of great interest on this plane is the report published in the United States recently by Senator Carl Levin entitled "Beyond the 'Head Count.' A Realistic Assessment of the Nonnuclear Military Balance in Europe," where he rightly points to the need to consider the quality of arms and equipment and the economic potential for which NATO has a very substantial superiority (according to his calculations a 150 percent superiority) over the Warsaw Pact Organization. That is the picture which can be obtained according to the same Western assessments but without the "propaganda loading!"

I have already spoken of the changes introduced by the attainment of nuclear missile parity, including changes to the "base strategy." No one now can offer an outside threat to our existence as a socialist state without risking suicide. Obviously there lie here great opportunities for optimizing the dimensions and structure of our military preparations with a consideration for unconditionally ensuring the military aspects of the USSR's security.

[Portanskiy] In general, it is simply impossible to discount the stereotypes which have formed in the West because they are embodied in practical actions and in its system of thinking...

[Blagovolin] ... which consists in believing that the most reliable, albeit not always the most convenient, thing to do is to hide under the "American umbrella" and coordinate one's actions with the United States. And from here it is just a step to making your national territory available for bases.

The United States exploits this situation for its own ends, seeking—and not without success—to involve in the implementation of its own global military plans not only the NATO countries but also Japan and a whole series of other states. True, they in turn use the U.S. military presence for a certain limitation to the further buildup of their own military preparations.

[Portanskiy] The positive advances taking place in the international arena instill the hope that an end will also come sometime to the "base strategy."

[Blagovolin] Bases play a very important role in ensuring U.S. military presence. And as long as there is a need for them (or they think there is a need for them) the bases will remain. The way out of this situation and from the destructive, senseless, and increasingly pernicious arms race in general, is the renunciation of the traditional interpretation of the very concept of "security," which implies counting on your own strength. That is why the concept of mutual security developed at the 27th CPSU Congress is indeed a breakthrough and indeed a new thinking.

It would be naive to expect that everything will be different tomorrow or in a year's time. A long, thorny path leads to new international relations. The first resolute step on this path was taken in December 1987 with the signing of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. There is simply no other path, because it ends in the death of civilization. Under the conditions of the present century, genuine reliable security should be attained primarily by political means and its military component must be formed on the basis of the principle of reasonable sufficiency. The question of bases and of the U.S. global military presence, for which there will simply be no justification, will be resolved. Naturally, this task should be resolved gradually, step by step. In this connection, I will recall that at the session held in Sofia in late March, the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact states approved their states' proposals on eliminating military bases and withdrawing foreign troops from the territories of other countries. The new political thinking not only in the East but also in the West and the consolidation of mutual trust—those are the essential elements which can ensure positive advances in the existing situation.

The most important thing is further progress at all talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments and a clear realization of the fact that military power in the world today can ensure neither real security nor the conditions for steady economic and social development.

Dobrynin Addresses Marxist Journal Conference

LD121635 Moscow TASS in English 1552 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Prague April 12 TASS—Not only the destinies of socialism, but largely the character and direction of the entire world development depend on the renewal of the theory and practice of socialism, on the communists' ability to take into consideration the transformations in the world. This was said by Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobyrnin who spoke today at a conference of representatives of Communist, workers' and revolutionary-democratic parties held to discuss the work of the journal "WORLD MARXIST REVIEW" ("PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM").

The work of the journal is discussed in the situation when radical changes take place in the world, Anatoliy Dobrynin said. And this means that new conditions evolve for socialist construction, for class and national liberation struggle of peoples.

The speaker noted that the communist movement is now living through the most important moment in its development. "This is a moment of bold quest, thought, doubts and hopes. And the key matter for all of us is to get much more profound knowledge of the world of today and its problems, to comprehend the road traversed, including the historic experience, and at the same time to chart the roads leading to future".

It is very important, said the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee "to heed each other and study each other's stands and viewpoints, particularly as regards theoretical views and conclusions. It is clear that we, revolutionaries, have no right to lag behind life and to fail to keep abreast of its problems. The CPSU got convinced from its own experience that any inability to cope with life, with complicated problems lead to the emergence of difficulties which at times can develop into dramatic situations. And we draw from this most serious conclusions in the political aspect and in the aspect of creative development of theory, and we would like to cooperate with fraternal parties in this".

Anatoliy Dobyrnin pointed out that "a new situation is now shaping in the working class movement. A favourable situation forms for the deepening of a broad dialogue, for the development of relations between the two main trends of the working class movement—the communists and the social democrats." It stands to reason, the speaker said, that more attention should be given also to a major political force functioning in Asian and African countries—the revolutionary democratic parties of developing countries. And, certainly, "the WORLD MARXIST REVIEW" can and must tackle more actively, fuller and bolder the problems of the development of socialism, its theory and history, the problems of its upgrading and renewal.

"All this is particularly important now that it can be noted that millions of people in all continents appear on the stage of history", said the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

In conclusion Anatoliy Dobyrnin noted that using its best traditions, the traditions that proved effective, the journal should resolutely turn to new realities and problems, present-day ideological and theoretical requirements for fraternal parties, new political thinking, should apply more consistently and profoundly the principles of the equality of the parties, their genuine comradely cooperation, ensuring broader democratism and collective guidance.

'Friendship 88' Second Phase Maneuvers Begins

LD121927 Moscow TASS in English 1305 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Berlin April 12 TASS—The joint exercise of troops from the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic, the Polish Army and the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, which is under way in this country, entered its second phase today as the units involved began mastering actions to repulse an enemy attack.

The exercise, codenamed "Friendship '88", is being attended by observers from 23 states participating in the conference on security and cooperation in Europe, which have been invited by the GDR Government in keeping with the document of the Stockholm Conference.

Foreign Ministry's Perfilyev Holds Briefing

Israel, Hijacking Viewed

LD121633 Moscow TASS in English 1612 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—An event of international importance is to take place on Thursday, April 14. There exists an arrangement that the agreements on a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan will be signed on that day. Deputy Chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry Vadim Perfilyev said this at a briefing here today.

The base from which the aggressive actions against Afghanistan were taken will on the whole be eliminated as a result of the fulfilment of the arrangements reached in Geneva, he said. Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan will be normalised. Afghan refugees will be returning home unobstructed.

"In connection with the coming event," V. Perfilyev went on, "I would like to recall Mikhail Gorbachev's statement on Afghanistan of February 8, 1988 in which it was emphasized that when the Afghan knot is untied, this will have most profound influence on other regional conflicts, too. Known also is Mikhail Gorbachev's other statement on this matter, made in Tashkent, when he said: We realise that the signing of the Geneva agreements set the beginning to the new stage in the developments in Afghanistan and in Soviet-Afghan relations. We also realise great international importance of embarking on this new stage."

It was asked at the briefing if the Soviet stand with regard to Israel has not changed. "Our stand with regard to the state of Israel is well known: We have always recognised and recognise its right to exist," V. Perfilyev said. "We hold that a peaceful and secure development of all states of the region, including, naturally, Israel, should be ensured in the framework of the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that lawful national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, above all, its right to self-determination should be exercised."

"One can quote the first part of the answer leaving aside the other as, obviously, not all the media have an equal liking for the word Israel and for the abreviation PLO, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "This led to certain twisting. So if anyone of the participants in the briefing intends to quote my answer I would like it to be quoted in full."

"A new act of international terrorism—the seizure of a Kuwaiti Boeing-747 airliner and the detention of its passengers as hostages on board the airliner—is condemned resolutely in the Soviet Union," V. Perfilyev said in answer to a question from a reporter. "What happens now before our very eyes is a crime under all existing international conventions. The Soviet Union is fundamentally against international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and favours broad and effective cooperation in preventing it in accordance with international law."

Geneva Accords on Afghanistan

LD121253 Moscow TASS in English 1237 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—An important event of international significance will take place on Thursday, April 14. An understanding was reached that on this day agreements will be signed on a political settlement of the Afghanistan situation, Vadim Perfilyev, deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, said at a briefing here today.

Fulfillment of the understandings reached in Geneva, he went on to say, will result in eliminating, in the main, a basis from which aggressive actions were carried against Afghanistan. Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan will be normalized, and Afghan refugees will return home without interference.

A settlement of foreign aspects of the Afghan problem, pointed out Vadim Perfilyev, is an unquestionable success of not only the states which are directly involved in a settlement but also of the countries which, guided by political realism, created a favourable atmosphere for reaching the Geneva understandings. The U.N. has again demonstrated its peace-making abilities.

"The experience of an Afghan settlement," said the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, "will undoubtedly be actively applied to other complicated international conflicts waiting for a long time for their solution."

Chinese Arms in Saudi Arabia

LD121459 Moscow TASS in English 1419 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The increased process of the spread of deadly weapons through Near and Middle Eastern countries is sequel to the unsettled situation in that flashpoint of the globe, Vadim Perfilyev, deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, told a briefing today, commenting on the shipment of Chinese-made missiles to Saudi Arabia.

The Soviet Union, he said has opposed as ever the arms race both on the international and regional scope. At the same time, in conditions when there are no real shifts in the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the continued Iran-Iraq war, one can understand the intentions by states in the region to reinforce their defence capability. This is, as a matter of fact, the sovereign right of these states themselves". [no opening quotation marks as received]

Israel, however, is seen to approach the question of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states in a different way, the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry went on. The threats, coming from Tel Aviv now, to launch a preemptive strike at Saudi missile launchers only add one more factor making for the exacerbation of the explosive as it is situation in the region.

They show that they in Israel keep flagrantly trampling upon international law standards and consider it possible to stage piratic actions against independent sovereign United Nations member states.

Such a line is inadmissible in present-day international relations, Vadim Perfilyev stressed.

U.S. Congress on Human Rights

LD121258 Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Interest has naturally been displayed in the Soviet Union in the report saying that the question of prospects of U.S. ratification of the international covenants on human rights has been discussed in Congress within the framework of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. This was stated at a briefing here today by Vadim Perfilyev, deputy head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The covenants were adopted by the United Nations in 1966, he recalled. The United States signed the covenants in 1977, but did not ratify them which was rightfully interpreted as its unwillingness to heed the opinion of the world community and undertake obligations which would require a radical adjustment of the country's home policy in the sphere of protection and encouragement of human rights.

Such a stand of the great power looked odious and deprived Americans of a possibility to converse on a par with the states, signatories to the covenants, and, seemingly, gave rise to anxiety and lack of understanding by the sober-minded congressmen. It is gratifying that in Congress one witnesses growing realistic sentiments towards these major international documents, the representative of the USSR Foreign Ministry said in conclusion.

Swedish Official To Visit

LD121610 Moscow TASS in English 1529 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson will pay a short working visit to the Soviet Union on April 17-18, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said today. Vadim Perfilyev, deputy head of the ministry's Information Directorate, said at a briefing that during the official visit to Sweden by Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, last January, the sides had reached an understanding on principles of delimitation of sea expanses in the Baltic Sea and sealed it by a relevant agreement.

During the forthcoming visit to the USSR, the Swedish minister would sign agreements intended to implement in practice this understanding, the spokesman said.

He added that the sides would also exchange views on topical matters of bilateral relations and key international problems.

Foreign Ministry's Oleandrov on Mideast Issue

LD122039 Moscow TASS in English 1512 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—"The Soviet Union is convinced that the need for settling international conflicts is prompted by supreme interests of mankind's survival in the interdependent and integral world under the conditions of the nuclear-space age. The common thing for all regional conflicts, despite all their peculiar features and differences, is the fact that they have only one way of settlement—political. The stake on military force has fully discredited itself," said Vsevolod Oleandrov, head of the International Organizations Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The Soviet Union, he noted in an interview with a TASS correspondent on diplomatic affairs, shows an example of resolute actions for the earliest settlement of the Afghanistan situation, signing of Geneva accords and a withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country, starting from May 15, as it was announced earlier.

The Middle East conflict is the oldest and the most difficult one of all regional conflicts. The international community needs to make a resolute turn to a collective search for ways of establishing a just peace in that region by holding an international conference on the Middle East under the U.N. aegis, which would ensure a just and peaceful settlement and would resolve the dangerous Middle East crisis.

"The Iran-Iraq conflict which has been continuing for many years," the representative of the USSR Foreign Ministry went on to say, "is a graphic example of futile attempts to tackle outstanding issues by military means. It is necessary to settle as soon as possible this protracted conflict through political means with due account of the interests of both sides by implementing Security Council Resolution 598 which is the political basis for a settlement."

Vsevolod Oleandrov pointed out further on that the discussion of the Central American situation at the U.N. had showed that the overwhelming majority of states came out against the U.S. policy from strength in that region and backed the efforts of the Contadora Group, the Support Group and other Latin American countries aimed at a search for a political settlement of this conflict.

As for the Mediterranean situation, the USSR sees the way out in switching over from words to deeds, from statements to real moves. The USSR is ready, as of July 1, to freeze the number of warships and the potential of Soviet and U.S. naval forces in the Mediterranean, to notify states, on a mutual basis with the USA, of shifts of warships and war games and to invite observers to them, noted Vsevolod Oleandrov.

The drafting by Mediterranean and other interested countries of principles and methods of ensuring security of heavy shipping lanes, especially in international straits, will meet with every support of the Soviet side, noted the USSR Foreign Ministry representative.

These proposals put forth by Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech in Belgrade last March, supplement the Soviet Union's former initiatives on reducing military potentials in the Mediterranean area.

Along with them, the Soviet Union supports a programme of security measures put forth by the Mediterranean non-aligned states. "All these and other proposals could be, in our opinion, examined at a conference of Mediterranean states and other interested countries," said Vsevolod Oleandrov in conclusion.

Political Solutions to Local Conflicts Urged

BK130458 Moscow International Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Public opinion in various countries is looking forward to the signing in Geneva in the next few days of the agreement on a political solution to issues around Afghanistan. It is both expected and believed that in this way an extremely complex local conflict will be ended. In this connection, our Radio Moscow commentator writes:

That the documents on the agreements concerning the Afghanistan issue have been drafted is an event of utmost importance. Nevertheless, I still like to compare this to a number of other events; namely, the temporary cease-fire accords concluded between the Nicaraguan Government representatives and those of the armed opposition group and the resumption of talks between the two forces in Nicaragua; the agreement reached by Ethiopia and Somalia on normalizing bilateral relations, the strained state of which has affected the situation in the entire Horn of Africa region; and the program proposed by the Cambodian Government to open a realistic way to national reconciliation.

I would like to stress that in all these cases, what matters is the concrete measures aimed at solving local conflicts. Naturally, all conflicts in different points of the world have their own history and characteristics, and it is unrealistic to suggest a common solution to such a state of affairs. Yet, in my opinion, it is also necessary to emphasize certain points that have the character of a law. First of all, it is the acknowledgement that the use of force cannot solve problems, hence the conclusion that a political solution must be achieved through talks on the condition of mutual concession. To me, this is the common characteristic of the objective processes we have mentioned above.

Of course, people may not agree with me and claim that the positive trends that have appeared recently in some regions engulfed in conflicts are not synonymous to a realistic solution to these conflicts. Naturally, this observation is totally correct. But, let us ask the following question: Could such positive steps forward have been possible 3 or 5 years ago? Certainly not. At that time, the prospects for a political solution to virtually all local conflicts were unrealistic by nature. As everyone can clearly see now, at least in certain regions these prospects have become brighter than before, and despite the fact that it is still difficult to turn the newly emerged possibilities into realities, the logic of new political thinking, the logic of the method of solving even the most complex issues through the political way, has begun to prevail even in this domain.

Voss on Parliamentary-Spiritual Seminar in UK

LD120915 Moscow TASS in English 0637 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Oxford April 12 TASS—The thoughts of the participants in the current World Conference of Parliamentary and Spiritual Leaders on Human Survival are full of concern over the destiny of mankind in the nuclear age and of striving to establish cooperation in the solution of global issues. The conference is being attended by 100 lawmakers and 100 church leaders from all over the world.

Messages of greetings from prominent statesmen were read out at the opening ceremony of the unique public forum. A message sent in by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India said that the parliamentarians and spiritual leaders should realise now that it was essential to use knowledge and scientific achievements for the progress of mankind.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar pointed out in his message that the forum on human survival issues was being held against the background of major international events. Despite the unprecedented progress of mankind, the message said, the peoples of the world are now faced with most serious problems which can be solved only through joint efforts. Prospects for reduction and subsequent elimination of nuclear arms have considerably improved of late. However, the risk of an outbreak of nuclear conflagration, particularly as a result of an error, still remains.

Robert Runcie, the archbishop of Canterbury, in his speech pointed out the importance of a joint approach to the solution of global issues. He said the forum gave an opportunity to spiritual and parliamentary leaders to find points of contact in the solution of all issues.

In an interview with a TASS correspondent, August Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament), said: "This important forum is to discuss ways of the work for peace, for the limitation of the nuclear arms race, for reduction and, ultimately, complete elimination of nuclear weapons. We consider it useful that political and spiritual leaders have an opportunity to pool their efforts in the accomplishment of these tasks. Specific measures with a view to ensuring the survival of humanity can be worked out at the conference which may become a stimulus to the world public in solving the problems which have arisen."

United States & Canada

'Upbeat Tone' of Reagan Las Vegas Speech Noted

LD121209 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] En route to Washington, D.C., from a 10-day vacation in Santa Barbara, California, President Reagan made a stop in Las Vegas where he addressed the 66th annual convention of the National Association of Broadcasters. Our observer Igor Pavlov makes this comment:

The President's speech was seen as designed to set the stage for the Moscow summit to begin in 7 weeks. Hence it should be viewed in the framework of what to expect, and not only of the summit but also of our bilateral relations in the months ahead. In arms control we have reason to believe that the INF Treaty will be ratified on both sides. As far as an accord on cutting long-range offensive arms by half is concerned, President Reagan said he didn't know whether such an agreement could be reached before the summit. This is a candid admission of uncertainties surrounding a START accord. For the most part they are due to enormous technical problems and a time deficit rather than to the absence of political will in Moscow and Washington.

On Afghanistan, there is no denying the fact that a peaceful settlement there will defuse East-West relations. Doing this with the United States being a guarantor of the United Nations-sponsored agreements is by far more preferable [as heard] than making it a bilateral affair between Kabul and Moscow, although such an option was publicly considered by this country and outlined by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in his recent interview with a leading Bulgarian newspaper.

There's nothing wrong about an upbeat tone of President Reagan's speech in Las Vegas. After all, any well-rested person, even if he's nobody's president, is full of pep. He feels like scaling any peak and tends to see the good things around him as something of his own doing. He is prone to challenge anything and anybody. President Reagan did just that by challenging this country to tear down an invisible wall of oppression, as he put it, that stands in the way of broader East-West ties. Well, I think we've had enough of that, of challenging each other till we found ourselves one step from the nuclear abyss. We have finally, or so it seems, switched our gear into reverse. Each side still has a lot to do to destroy walls of fear and distrust by bringing mutual grievances and concerns into the open. So we can do without loud challenges before public or other gatherings. But this, of course, remains a matter of taste, way of thinking, or political tactics. President Reagan chose the latter.

Shevardnadze Receives Ambassador Matlock

LD131125 Moscow TASS in English 1100 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, has received Jack Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR, at the latter's request.

U.S. Stand on Afghanistan 'Ambiguous'

LD131132 Moscow TASS in English 1155 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 13 TASS—TASS correspondent I. Ignatiyev reports:

With a date for the signing of the Geneva accords on a political settlement of the Afghanistan situation drawing nearer, the flow of weapons being supplied to the anti-government Afghan groups has sharply increased.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR newspaper reports that Washington is now supplying the opposition with additional arms to the tune of several hundred million dollars to stock them with weapons for the coming months. The newspaper points out that the deliveries include equipment which was never supplied before.

According to a report in THE WASHINGTON TIMES newspaper with reference to Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad, over the past two months the opposition for the first time received heavy armament and the newest anti-tank weapon. The newspaper writes that about 350 Stinger missiles were brought from Pakistan over the past several weeks. Besides, anti-government groups are now mastering new enhanced-accuracy mortars.

At a meeting with several representatives of U.S. right-wing circles in the White House on Tuesday, President Reagan stated that Afghan anti-government groups would continue to receive weapons.

Such an ambiguous stand of the administration which officially declared its readiness to become a guarantor of Geneva accords gave rise to numerous questions at a regular briefing held on Tuesday by Marlin Fitzwater, assistant to the President for press relations. The journalists asked him to explain how the United States intended to guarantee non-interference in Afghanistan's affairs from outside if it continued to supply anti-government groups with weapons.

The White House spokesman said that the administration did not intend to break its word.

U.S. 'Right' Opposes Agreement on Afghanistan

PM131115 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[PRAVDA correspondent V. Gan report: "Acting as a Guarantor"]

[Text] Washington, 12 Apr—After a meeting with his leading advisers, President Reagan has decided that the United States, like the Soviet Union, will act as a guarantor of the Geneva agreement on a settlement in Afghanistan.

Announcing his decision, Reagan said that Secretary of State Shultz is leaving for Geneva where, on behalf of the United States, he will sign the accord which has taken 6 years of difficult negotiations between Kabul and Islamabad, under the UN aegis, to elaborate. In turn, speaking at a meeting with journalists the secretary of state described the envisaged withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan as an event of tremendous importance. He denied that the absence from the agreement of a formal cease-fire declaration and the opposition to the document which has been expressed by the resistance forces "put a wrench in the works" of the successful implementation of the agreed provisions.

Many people here agree with the secretary of state, taking the view that a real basis has now really been provided for settling the situation around Afghanistan, ending the war, establishing peace, and creating a coalition government with the participation of all the forces represented in Afghan society. At the same time, however, nobody believes that the success of the agreement is assured or that its implementation is guaranteed, so to speak, a priori.

The statements currently coming from the right are quite different and amount to a barrage of anger. Why are we signing the agreement? It should be resisted, Senator G. Humphrey has said. After all, the communist government will remain in power and the resistance forces have rejected the agreement, former Reagan aide C. Menges says in support. From the extreme right the administration is being accused of "selling out the rebels," of concluding a "bad deal," and even of "sacrificing principles" to the upcoming Soviet-American summit in Moscow.

In general terms it would hardly be wrong to suggest that the fate of Afghanistan and its status as an independent, nonaligned, and neutral state will largely depend on what line Washington decides to implement in practice rather than in words.

Cooperation 'Useful' in Settling Afghan Issue

LD130113 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The Afghan-Pakistani accords that would provide for the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan are ready to be signed in Geneva on Thursday. Vladislav Kozyakov makes this comment:

[Passage omitted] Like any international agreement, the Geneva package is the outcome of compromises and of the constructive influence of all those who were involved in the settlement. Much credit goes to the United Nations secretary general and his personal envoy, Diego Cordovez. The Afghan-Pakistani talks had been dragging on for several years until the Soviet leadership, headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, (?and) the 1986 party congress took a decision to return the Soviet military contingent home in the near future and the Afghan Government proclaimed its national reconciliation policy.

The restructuring process taking place in the Soviet Union embraces the country's foreign policy as well. Foreign policy changes find their expression in new approaches to major international problems and in the desire to take a greater interest in partners. They also reveal themselves in a readiness to make compromises, to be more open to control under the disarmament agreements and revise some previous positions. The new political thinking has led to the signing of the agreement on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles. Now we see one more outstanding result: the accords providing for the settlement of a very complicated regional conflict.

In Las Vegas, President Reagan declared that the accords would be a major contribution to the improvement of East-West relations. I have no intention of belittling the importance of the contribution made by other countries, participants in the talks, but I would say, writes Vladislav Kozyakov, that cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in the solution of international issues has proved to be useful in the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

This has special significance now that preparations are under way for a new Soviet-American summit due to open in Moscow at the end of May.

Abrahamson Remark on ABM Treaty Criticized

PM121305 Moscow TRUD in Russian 12 Apr 88 p 3

[S. Galin "Pertinent Remarks": "Alarming Signals From Washington"]

[Text] Let us compare two facts. First fact. The Soviet and U.S. delegations in Geneva are seeking ways to reduce the two countries' strategic offensive arms by 50 percent under conditions of observance of the 1972 ABM Treaty. Second fact. The Pentagon is continuing research in six areas in order to choose the most efficient means of deploying a space arms system within the framework of the first phase of SDI. A very obvious conclusion suggests itself from such a comparison: The second process constantly threatens to derail the first, since a large-scale SDI system is known to be incompatible with the ABM Treaty.

In fact, this was recently admitted by Lieutenant General James Abrahamson, director of the organization for implementing SDI, in written replies to Democrat Senator B. Johnston's questions. With military bluntness he expressed the wish that the Soviet Union "forget" about the ABM Treaty and, instead, reach agreement with the United States on "regulations" governing the deployment of space defense.

Well, the general's wishes are his personal affair. But Abrahamson did not stop at a wish. There followed a statement that, if the United States decides to deploy an SDI system and the USSR does not agree to a "new setup" permitting this, then "the United States will have to send notification, in accordance with the ABM Treaty, of its intention to pull out of the treaty in 6 months' time in order to ensure observance of its supreme national interests."

But what then, one wonders, are the Geneva talks about? Are they really about how to proceed more quickly and without "undue trouble" for Washington to a race for space arms which are hypocritically presented as "defensive" and "nonlethal" (as though war in general could be nonlethal)? No, something else is well known. Proceeding from the instructions contained in the joint statement on the results of the meeting between M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan, the delegations in Geneva are trying to agree on 50-percent reductions in strategic offensive arms under conditions of observance of the ABM Treaty as it was signed in 1972. That is, it is a question of a regime governing the observance rather than the abandonment of the treaty.

At the Washington summit meeting, as is known, the USSR and the United States recorded a formula on not pulling out of the ABM Treaty during an agreed term. The USSR proposes as this term 10 years, and the United States a little less, but the problem lends itself to a solution and evidently will be solved. But the director of the organization for implementing SDI is clearly pulling in the other direction. He quite frankly insists on accelerating the pace of work in the space arms sphere, "forgetting" both about regard for the other side's interests and about the talks being held in Geneva.

Gen Abrahamson here refers to the "legitimate rights" of the United States under the ABM Treaty, meaning the "right" to the arbitrary "broad" interpretation advanced by Washington, which justifies tests of SDI components in space. This alone is unacceptable in the light of the joint Washington statement. But there can also be glimpsed behind this a desire simply to pull out of the ABM Treaty "with appropriate notification," if demanded by U.S. "supreme national interests." Does the Pentagon not intend thereby to revise the understanding reached during the summit meeting on not pulling out during an agreed term—as a result of which, in the opinion of SDI's supporters, the preparations to deploy the first phase of space defense could be "held up"?

True, Abrahamson stipulates that the time for making the principled decision has not yet come. The course of his thoughts, however, leaves no doubts as to the general's preferences. The ABM Treaty clearly ties his hands. Taking into account the fact that Abrahamson's written arguments are regarded as reflecting the official viewpoint, the signals which have come out of Washington cannot fail to cause concern.

Joint U.S. Economic Council Begins Activities

LD120916 Moscow TASS in English 0651 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The 11th annual meeting of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council opened here today. It is discussing the most important problems connected with Soviet-American trade, scientific and technological ties.

The meeting is being attended by some 300 heads of Soviet ministries and organizations, as well as 500 prominent American businessmen.

The U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council which is a joint body of the business circles of both countries was set up in 1983. The purpose of its work is to create favourable conditions for trade between the two countries, to establish and develop business relations, to quest for new forms and methods of cooperation.

A program of the first day of the work of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council includes sessions of the Executive Committee and the board of directors of the council, as well as meetings of Soviet and American representatives who will discuss various spheres of bilateral business relations within the framework of six committees affiliated in the council.

The 11th annual meeting of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council, the most representative one in all the years of its existence, is being held after the summit meeting that took place in Washington last December, in the course of which the leaders of the two countries voiced firm support for the expansion of mutually advantageous trade and economic relations. The fact that the current meeting is held ahead of another summit in Moscow is adding significance to it.

The U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council, a joint body of Soviet and American business circles, was set up in 1973. The supreme organ of the council is the annual meeting held by turns in the USSR and the U.S. The board of directors that includes 30 representatives from both sides is in charge of the work of the council. It elects from among its members two co-chairmen of the council. At the moment those posts are held by Vladislav Malkevich, chairman of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Dwayne Andreas, head of the U.S. Archer Daniels Midlands company.

The meeting of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council is expected to last for three days.

Yakovlev Receives Armand Hammer

LD121738 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Aleksandr Yakovlev today received prominent representative of the business circles and public figure of the USA, chairman of the board of the Occidental Petroleum Corporation Armand Hammer at the latter's request.

Armand Hammer staying in Moscow for the participation in the annual meeting of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council spoke about the attitudes in the U.S. business community more than 500 representatives of which had arrived in Moscow for the meeting of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council. He emphasized that Mikhail Gorbachev's call to the U.S. business circles made during his visit in the USA to expand considerably mutually-advantageous trade and other forms of economic cooperation between the two countries continues evoking a most positive response in the business world of the USA and the striving to establish practical ties with Soviet partners.

The interlocutors expressed the consensus that the positive developments in Soviet-American relations, the improvement of the political atmosphere in these relations particularly as a result of the Washington summit creat favourable opportunities for the widening of business ties between the USSR and the USA. It is important now to be consistently removing artificial obstacles in this way.

The conversation had a businesslike and friendly nature.

Verity Cited on Trade

LD122044 Moscow TASS in English 1557 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The current, 11th, annual session on the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council and the 10th session of the joint United States-Soviet Commercial Commission will result in better trade and economic relations between the United States and the USSR, said the U.S. secretary of commerce.

William Verity spoke here today at a reception in honour of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council members.

The secretary expressed the hope that the session would lay a basis for better bilateral economic relations.

Murakhovskiy Holds Talks

LD122319 Moscow TASS in English 2121 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Chairman of the USSR State Agriindustrial Committee Vsevolod Murakhovskiy today received president of the U.S. company Ralston-Purina, P. Hatfield, who arrived in Moscow for the regular eleventh meeting of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council.

A thorough conversation was held. The main directions of the further development of cooperation of the USSR State Agroindustrial Committee with the firm in the meat-packing and dairy industry and deep processing of high protein cultures, including matters of the creation of a joint venture and organizational research, were discussed.

The meeting was held in a benevolent atmosphere and had a constructive nature.

Kamentsev Voices Concerns

LD131016 Moscow TASS in English 0956 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Moscow TASS in English at 1128 GMT on 13 April transmits a service message requesting that TASS subscribers "kill" this item.]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Soviet deputy head of government Vladimir Kamentsev today described the current state of this country's trade with the United States as unsatisfactory.

Speaking at the 11th annual meeting of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Trade and Economic Council [ASTEC] here, he said it was essential to remove existing restrictions and hindrances in the way of exports and imports between the two countries in order to normalize their economic relationship.

"U.S. customs duties on Soviet goods today are effectively prohibitive and can make bilateral trade dwindle even further," he said.

"We are concerned about the lack of balance in trade," Kamentsev added. "We cannot fund trade with the United States at the expense of revenue from commerce with other countries all the time."

There were impediments also to exports of modern products from the United States, Kamentsev said, "But the USSR will never become a market for obsolete goods".

"Clearing all these obstacles away will make it possible substantially to increase bilateral trade," he declared.

The deputy premier pointed to the big promise held out by new forms of business cooperation. He said 36 joint ventures with foreign companies were already in business in the USSR and another 200-odd partnerships were in the making.

"Two joint operations have been launched and 14 protocols of intent to form more such businesses have been signed with U.S. firms. Another 50 or so similar projects are being discussed," Kamentsev continued.

He said a new concept for joint enterprise had been evolved at ASTEC, which provided for establishing trade consortiums in the Soviet Union and the United States to carry out major undertakings in the petroleum industry, the auto industry, instrument making and agribusiness through joint operations.

"It is essential to give a further impulse to cooperation in science and technology as well, especially in such major projects as thermonuclear fusion, the monitoring of the surface of earth from space, and a joint mission to Mars," Kamentsev said.

"The development of cooperation could be facilitated by reactivating agreements between the USSR and the U.S. on scientific and technological cooperation, transport and the power industry.

"The two countries could jointly realize major projects in Soviet territory to develop the energy sector, modernize the mechanical engineering industry on a large scale, and develop the agribusiness sector and the chemical and petrochemical industries."

"What we need to develop bilateral economic relations is the political will and also guarantees that no passing political considerations will undermine these relations in the future," Kamentsev said.

Kamentsev Addresses Meeting

LD130845 Moscow TASS in English 0753 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—More than 500 American businessmen and about 300 representatives of the USSR are taking part in a plenary meeting of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council (ASTEC) which opened here today.

Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and U.S. Commerce Secretary William Verity addressed those present in speeches of greetings.

Reports on the state of Soviet-American trade and economic contacts and the role of ASTEC in their development were delivered by the council's co-chairmen: Vladislav Malkevich, president of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Dwayne O. Andreas, chairman of the board of the Archer Daniels Midland Company.

Ryzhkov on Trade Cooperation

PM131103 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[Text] Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, received in the Kremlin today a group of senior executives of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council, which is in Moscow to attend the 11th annual meeting of this organisation that comprises the two countries' businessmen.

During a substantive talk they examined, specifically, the issues of giving further impetus to the sides' efforts to foster and extend mutual trade and economic ties. Ryzhkov said that the course of developing mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries, among them the United States, which was embarked upon by the Soviet Union, was stable.

The Soviet Government, as Mikhail Gorbachev emphasized in Washington, proceeds from the premise that economic and trade cooperation between the two countries is a factor of internal development and consolidation of the international situation.

The attention of the U.S. business executives was called to the specific instances of the display of constructiveness on the part of the USSR, the aspiration to find an optimum combination of the interests of both Soviet and foreign partners. Ryzhkov clarified in detail the new provisions of the Soviet legislation, which are meant to create the most auspicious conditions for business ties, and also the rights of Soviet enterprises and organisations in the field of foreign economic activity, which are being extended.

U.S. business executives noted that despite the preserved difficulties in trade, a tendency towards its invigoration, primarily through using new forms of trade and economic ties, has been making its way lately. Two joint business ventures with U.S. firms were launched and up to 50 such projects are under discussion.

An indication of new elements in Soviet-U.S. business contacts is an open discussion on the theme "new thinking in international relations—the basis of greater confidence and the development of trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries" which is held within the framework of the Moscow meeting of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council.

Considering the two countries' economic, scientific and technical potential, the opportunities for developing multifarious ties between them seem to be rather considerable even now and a sufficient field of action is being opened here not only for large but also medium and small firms, Ryzhkov noted. As a sweeping economic reform is enacted in the Soviet Union, the forms and mechanism of economic cooperation with foreign partners will continue to be upgraded and diversified. At the same time, one cannot fail to be mindful that genuine success of cooperation is possible only on the basis of reciprocity, equality, account of each other's interests.

In this connection, the activity of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council was assessed positively. A fruitful exchange of views was held on ways to increase the contribution by the U.S. business community to forming a broad base for the constructive development of relations between the two countries.

Attending the meeting were, on the Soviet side, V.K. Gusev and V.M. Kamentsev,deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; V.L. Malkevich, USSR cochairman of ASTEC and chairman of the USSR Trade and Economic Chamber Presidium; A.I. Kachanov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, and D.A. Solovykh, vice president of ASTEC; on the U.S. side, D. Andreas, U.S. cochairman of ASTEC; J. Griffen, president of ASTEC; R. Mahoney; J. Murphy; and A. Ozmetel [name as published], director of ASTEC.

'High Hopes' for Ties

PM131055 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[N. Larionova and S. Tikhomirov "Report From the 11th Annual ASTEC Meeting": "Great Potential"]

[Text] The building housing the Soviet International Trade Center on Krasnaya Presnya in Moscow—where the 11th annual session of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council (ASTEC) is currently being held—is a graphic example of Soviet-U.S. cooperation. Many U.S. companies participated in the construction of this whimsical piece of architecture. Armand Hammer, the man behind the construction of the center, said on completion of the work: "It should not be forgotten that the trade center was conceived only as the beginning of our cooperation."

So it is that sessions of the Soviet-U.S. Trade Commission, ASTEC meetings, and talks and meetings between U.S. and USSR business people are held in this building. The current, 11th annual ASTEC meeting is no ordinary meeting. First, it has never before been attended by so many U.S. businessmen. Second, taking part in the meeting's work on the Soviet side are directors of enterprises and scientific research institutes—that is, precisely the people who are likely to be operating in foreign markets in the future. And it is very important that Soviet specialists have not just come empty-handed to "put in an appearance."

Whichever committee session we attended, the picture was similar everywhere—our specialists put forward their proposals and the Americans listened attentively to them, asking questions along the way. Even if not all proposals meet with a response from our partners, they can put forward their own counterproposals. And then they get down to discussing amendments to the proposals.

"The Americans' problem," V.V. Yezhkov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, said, "is that even veterans of cooperation with the Soviet Union very often do not realize our potential. They are simply ill-informed about which enterprises do what. Hence the very important task of helping them find a Soviet customer or supplier. The current ASTEC session also serves these goals.

"But," our interlocutor continued, "there is one sphere of cooperation where everything is decided by political interests rather than economic advantage. This sphere is scientific and technical ties. They have a good history. When the political will existed on both sides, we flew together in space. But now the high-tech spheres of cooperation have turned into a tool for political pressure. It often takes the U.S. Department of Commerce up to 6 months to discuss certain Soviet proposals, coordinate them with the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, and so on."

The climate has clearly improved recently, largely thanks to the historic Soviet-U.S. accords in the sphere of nuclear disarmament. Thus, on 20 January 1987, the U.S. Department of Commerce lifted the restrictions—in place since 1978—on exports to the USSR of technology and equipment for petroleum and gas processing that have no strategic importance. Unfortunately, there have not yet been any concrete results. Opportunities for stepping up Soviet-U.S. cooperation are being studied at intergovernmental level.

"Now is a special time in Soviet-U.S. trade and economic relations," V.V. Yezhkov said. "I would say it is a time of expectation. Great potential has been accumulated. And it is now being decided whether cooperation will go smoothly or come up against new obstacles. The hopes are high, and they deserve to be borne out."

Soviet-U.S. Committee Discusses Tourism

LD121717 Moscow TASS in English 1448 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Communication between people having different political views can promote the strengthening of mutual understanding between the peoples of the USSR and USA. This was said today at a meeting of the Committee on Tourism of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council by head of the Soviet delegation Igor Konovalov.

He noted that the number of Americans visiting the USSR has been growing at a stable rate over the recent years. The year 1987 was a very good year in this respect. There are good prospects also for the current year. Great hopes are pinned on the development of tourism on the basis of direct flights of Aeroflot-Pan American joint airlines. Talks are under way with U.S. companies to set up joint ventures for the maintenance of hotels.

Head of the U.S. delegation Tommaso Zanzotto agreed that there are good prospects for the development of tourism. He emphasized, however, the complexities in the market of tourism in the USA. In order to operate in it successfully, there is a need for considerable efforts of partners in the area of marketing and advertising. He is of the opinion that Soviet organizations are not active enough in that area so far.

Joint Venture With U.S. in Fertilizer Industry

LD121248 Moscow TASS in English 2226 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—The Soviet Ministry of Mineral Fertiliser Production and the Austrian subsidiary of the American company Honeywell Inc. agreed on establishing a third Soviet-U.S. joint enterprise, called Sterch Controls. The official signing of relevant documents will take place on April 14.

The first stage of the new joint enterprise provides for creating in Moscow a technical centre on engineering and marketing control systems for industry as well as for training specialists. The centre will employ 40 specialists, mainly Soviet. After registration with the Soviet Ministry of Finances, Sterch Controls will start working on a feasibility study for a line to manufacture production equipment.

The joint enterprise will supply control systems for mineral fertilizer plans. There are plans to build 100 enterprises in the Soviet Union. The joint enterprise will render similar services to customers in third countries.

The Soviet ministry holds a 51 per cent share in the venture.

China

USSR Government Congratulates Elected Leaders

Premier Li Peng

PM130941 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[Undated USSR Council of Ministers Message to PRC Premier Li Peng]

[Text] To Comrade Li Peng, Premier of the PRC State Council.

Please accept our congratulations and wishes for success on your appointment as premier of the PRC State Council.

We are confident that the further constructive development of Soviet-Chinese relations in various spheres would be in the vital interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples and in the interests of socialism and the task of strengthening peace throughout the world.

The USSR Council of Ministers.

Chairman Wan Li

PM130935 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[Undated USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium message to PRC NPC Chairman Wan Li]

[Text] To Comrade Wan Li, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress [NPC].

We congratulate you on your election as chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress and wish you health and success in your activity in this post.

We sincerely hope that relations between the Soviet Union and the PRC will continue their progressive development in a spirit of mutually advantageous cooperation and for the good of our countries' peoples.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

President Yang Shangkun

PM130933 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[Undated USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium message to PRC President Yang Shangkun]

[Text] To Comrade Yang Shangkun, President of the PRC.

We congratulate you on your election to the high post of president of the PRC.

The Soviet Union expresses the hope that relations between our countries will develop and grow deeper in the interests of good-neighborliness and for the benefit of the Soviet and PRC peoples and the cause of peace and socialism.

We wish you good health and success in your activity.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

TASS Reports Government Appointments
LD121519 Moscow TASS in English 0856 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing April 12 TASS—Yao Yilin, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPA), and Tian Jiyun, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, have been appointed vice premiers of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Wu Xueqian, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, was also endorsed as a vice premier of the State Council of the PRC today at a plenary meeting of the session of the National People's Council. Previously he was the minister of foreign affairs of the PRC.

The session also confirmed the appointment of Qian Qichen, member of the CPC Central Committee, to be the minister of foreign affairs of the PRC. Previously he was the deputy minister.

Qin Jiwei, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, was appointed the new minister of defence of the PRC. Until now he has been the commander of the Beijing Military District.

National People's Congress Session Ends
LD130640 Moscow TASS in English 0627 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing April 13 TASS—The first session of the Seventh National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China came to a close here today.

For 20 days deputies of the supreme body of state power discussed key problems of the economic, political, public and cultural life of the country. They elected a new leadership of China—the chairman of the People's Republic of China and his deputy, the chairman of the Permanent Committee of the National People's Congress, the premier of the State Council and the chairman of the Central Military Council of the People's Republic of China.

The session adopted a number of laws, specifically, the law on the industrial enterprise owned by the nation. The deputies approved a plan of the economic and social development of the country for 1988 and the budget for 1988.

Li Xiannian Condemns Acts for Independent Tibet
LD121826 Moscow TASS in English 1003 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing April 12 TASS—The Government and People of China will never permit a separation of Tibet. This was pointed out by Li Xiannian, chairman of the All-China Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. He condemned actions for that territory's "independence" or "semi-independence". We treat with respect Tibet's cultural traditions and customs, but we will never allow its separation from China, Li Xiannian said during a meeting with Prince Henri, the heir of the grand duke of Luxembourg, who is currently on a visit in Beijing.

Soviet Official on PRC Missile Sale to Saudis
OW130614 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] A spokesman for the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the following comments on the news that China is supplying missiles to Saudi Arabia:

Perfiliyevhas stated: The Soviet Union has always opposed the international and regional arms race. At the same time, under the conditions where there is no actual progress in mediating the Arab-Israeli conflict and the war between Iran and Iraq is continuing, it is understandable that countries in the region wish to strengthen their defensive capabilities. The Soviet ministry's spokesman emphatically pointed out that this is the sovereign right of these countries.

Other Countries Should Not Obstruct Ties
OW120424 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Alekseyev commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Can the USSR's—or China's—relations with a third country obstruct the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations? What is the Soviet stand toward this issue? Please stay tuned for a commentary by Alekseyev, an observer for this station:

We have always maintained that the further development of Soviet-Chinese relations should by no means be determined by the ties the Soviet Union or China have established with any third country, otherwise the development of Soviet-Chinese ties would be something based on impairing the interests of another country and its people. Morally speaking, anything similar to this is unacceptable.

For example, the USSR is displeased with the nature of certain international liaisons of the United States. Similarly, it is well known that the United States is also dissatisfied with [certain international ties of] the USSR. However, this has not prevented the USSR and the United States from reaching bilateral accords and improving their relations, or carrying out summit talks.

Naturally, this does not mean that acute issues are not mentioned or discussed during the process of the contacts. On the contrary, actual experiences show that Soviet-U.S. summit talks have provided a good environment for discussing and resolving controversial issues. Everyone knows that the next summit will probably begin in Moscow on 29 May. I think such a realistic stand is useful and can also be applied in approaching Soviet-Chinese relations. I think China apparently also understands this. This is because improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations is an objective, historical (?need).

China and the USSR are two socialist powers, and both are engaged in large-scale reforms. To achieve their plans, both countries are in need of a peaceful environment and a halt to the arms race. Naturally, both countries share similar or identical views on a whole series of vital issues, including nuclear disarmament. While our two countries have different views on certain issues—such as the Cambodian issue—should this difference obstruct the development of Soviet-Chinese relations? I think not. Of course, this calls for both sides to approach the development of bilateral relations in the light of the fundamental interests of their peoples as well as the interests of peace and socialism.

Everyone knows that the USSR has proposed a Soviet-Chinese summit, which I think is not only conducive to the further improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations, but also will contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Economic Delegation Arrives in Khabarovsk

OW120219 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] An economic and trade delegation from Shenyang, China, arrived in Khabarovsk on 7 April. Li Fangzheng, head of the delegation, told a station reporter that the purpose of his delegation's visit is to promote technical and economic cooperation between the two cities. He said that according to a decision of the Chinese State Council, Shenyang has been designated as a city to test economic reform, and the city has been granted provincial-level authority. Li stressed that cooperation between Khabarovsk and Shenyang will be conducive to the development in the two cities.

During the forthcoming talks, delegations of the two cities will discuss issues concerning the development of barter trade and technical services and the feasibility of other cooperation projects.

RSFSR Official on Border River Meeting

OW081405 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 3 Apr 88

[From "Advance Along the Path of Friendship and Cooperation" program]

[Excerpts] Dear Chinese friends, a regular meeting of the Soviet-Chinese Joint Commission for Navigation on the Amur Boundary River, namely [ji] the Heilong Jiang, was recently held in Harbin. Comrade (Arlovichi Geludekov), deputy head of the General Administration for Waterways and Water Projects of the RSFSR Ministry of the River Fleet, attended the meeting.

(Arlovichi Geludekov) said: The Soviet-Chinese Joint Commission for Navigation on the Amur Boundary River, namely the Heilong Jiang, held its 30th meeting in Harbin from 25 February to 12 March 1988. [passage omitted] At the meeting, the two sides discussed the report on navigation in 1987 prepared by each side and reviewed their work. They approved the work plan for 1988, which will further improve navigation conditions on the border rivers. They also discussed measures to improve navigational safety. The Soviet side is dredging the waterway in the midstream of the Amur between Blagoveshchensk and Khabarovsk. This is the section where Xinganling passes through and where there are many submerged rocks hampering the navigation of ships. In the last 10 to 12 years, we have been doing this work in accordance with the agreement reached with the Chinese side. During the 1988 navigation season, the two sides will jointly check the dredge work before acceptance. At the regular meeting, we reached agreement on the method of inspection and acceptance. In addition, we also agreed to install flash signal lamps along the waterways of the border rivers on a trial basis. There are no such signal lamps at present. The two sides will discuss the navigational conditions and other related matters when they conduct joint inspections of the waterways. They agreed to hold the next joint commission meeting in Khabarovsk next February or March.

Comrade (Arlovichi Geludekov) concluded: I want to point out that the joint commission conducted its work in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere. The two sides were determined to do their best to use the waterways of the Amur, namely the Heilong Jiang, in the common interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples. In addition to attending the meeting, we were also invited to visit a number of industrial enterprises in Harbin and Hailar as well as scenic spots and historical sites. We had friendly conversations with leaders of Heilongjiang Province and received kind hospitality from the Heilongjiang branch of the Chinese-Soviet Friendship Association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Chinese comrades for their kind hospitality and friendship.

Conservation Projects Planned

OW081301 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Feature: "The Cooperation Between Our Two Countries Along the Amur"]

[Excerpts] I hope that the border that separates us—no, that links us together—will become an area of peace and friendship in the near future. For instance, we do not wish to look upon the boundary river, the Amur, as a water barrier. Let this great river unite the Chinese and the Soviet peoples in their joint efforts to utilize the abundant resources and develop water conservation projects.

Dear listeners, the previous comment is from a speech delivered by Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at Vladivostok in the summer of 1986. It reflects the stand of our country on expanding economic contacts and cooperation along both banks of the Amur with our neighbor, China. As is well known, not long after the speech was delivered by the Soviet leader, the Soviet Union and China signed an agreement on setting up a Soviet-Chinese joint committee. The committee is in charge of drawing up plans for the comprehensive utilization of water resources on the boundary rivers Amur and Argun. There are various fields of cooperation during the planning period, such as electric power, navigation, [words indistinct], irrigation, [words indistinct], environmental protection, and so forth. Many Soviet and Chinese scientists, hydraulic engineers, and experts on aquatic products have been assigned to the planning work. For instance, the Soviet chief engineer responsible for the planning work for the Amur is specialist (Smirnov). [passage omitted]

(Smirnov) was interviewed by a station reporter on the progress of the comprehensive plans for the Amur. He said: The planning work has been going on for over a year. Last year we conducted a joint survey of the Amur with Chinese experts and defined the primary projects in our cooperation; namely, two key water control projects suggested by both Soviet and Chinese experts. One of them is located between (Amazar) and Huma City in the upper reaches of the Amur. Another is located in the Xinganling area in the middle reaches of the Amur. A final decision will be made on the primary projects after a supplemental survey is conducted this autumn. [passage omitted]

Comrade (Smirnov) added: A work meeting was held in Moscow a few days ago in order for both sides to reach a common understanding of the mathematics modules employed in the planning work for the Amur. Soviet and Chinese experts on mathematics, programming, and hydraulic power took part in the meeting. The Chinese experts completely understood the principle of mathematics modules for the Amur planning work presented by us. We believe that all Chinese involved will take the same standpoint. We shall hold a similar meeting in the future. Consultation meetings between Soviet and Chinese experts will be held regularly. It has been agreed that a group of Soviet experts on mathematics, programming, and hydraulic power will visit their Chinese counterparts at the design organizations of Beijing and Changchun in June 1988.

Heilongjiang To Develop Trade With USSR

LD121941 Moscow TASS in English 1217 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing April 12 TASS—TASS correspondent Grigoriy Arslanov reports:

The Heilongjiang Province, which has a common frontier with the Soviet Far East, has been vested by the State Council of the People's Republic of China with broad rights in the development of trade and economic relations with the USSR. This was stated by Hou Jie, chairman of the Heilongjiang People's Government, at the first session of the Seventh National People's Congress which is underway here.

Another five centres for Soviet-Chinese frontier trade are planned to be opened in the province this year, he said. There are now only three such centres engaged in cooperation between the two countries in frontier trade. The central Chinese Government granted the Heilongjiang administration the right to take decisions not only in the frontier trade area but also in the area of economic cooperation—joint Soviet-Chinese projects on both sides of the frontier, and also in modernization of operating factories and plants and erection of new ones.

There are over 20 big enterprises on the territory of the province which were built in the 1950s with Soviet assistance and now need to be streamlined, said chairman of the People's Government of Heilongjiang. Soviet industrial technology, he underlined, suits the Chinese side both for quality and price. In Heilongjiang it is also planned to establish special farm produce facilities, intended to export farm produce to the Soviet Union. The Chinese side will get in exchange equipment, timber, fertilizers and cement.

In a CHINA DAILY interview Hou Jie has said that while China's seaside areas are seeking to win international markets, the Heilongjiang Province is fully determined to develop trade and economic cooperation with the USSR and East European socialist countries.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Soviet Financial Activity in Singapore Profiled

OW091349 Tokyo KYODO in English 0908 GMT 9 Apr 88

[By Lee Yew Meng]

[Text] Singapore, April 9 KYODO—V. Budennyy is a burly man with a hearty, infectious laughter. In his spacious office on the third floor of the MNB building in Singapore's central business district, he talked and gesticulated like any Western banker.

The only giveaway was when he spoke on the intercom with his colleague—in Russian. Budennyy has been in Singapore since 1982 and in a short span of three years has been promoted from first deputy general manager to director and general manager of the Singapore branch of the government-sponsored Moscow Narodny Bank (MNB).

His role as a Soviet financier has taken on a new meaning since 'perestroyka' or Soviet economic reforms were announced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last year.

In a recent interview with KYODO news service, he spoke of his new mission of bridging East-West trade by financing joint ventures of the Soviet Union and other East European socialist countries with other foreign companies.

The Singapore branch office has the connections with Soviet institutions, an advantage which it enjoys should any joint venture involving them are proposed, he said.

Indeed, East-West trade financing is the bread and butter of the Singapore branch, accounting for more than 80 percent of its total credit exposure of 1.1 billion Singapore dollars (550 million U.S. dollars).

It financed two successful Singapore-Soviet joint ventures operating here—Singapore-Soviet Shipping Co. (Pte) Ltd., which was set up more than 10 years ago, and Mariscco Pte Ltd., a seafood processing company formed in 1975.

Mariscco, a 50-50 joint venture between Singapore Marine Enterprises Pte Ltd. and V/S Sovrybflot of the Soviet Union, has invested 11 million U.S. dollars in a Singapore plant which can now process 50 tons of seafood daily. It will be setting up a 10 million U.S. dollar plant in Moscow soon to process and retail seafoods in the Soviet Union.

There are five other joint-venture proposals between Singapore and the Soviet Union under consideration and they are in shipping, trade and hotel construction.

The policy change from mainly property financing to East-West trade financing has paid off for the Singapore branch, Budennyy said. Last year, it achieved a net profit of 17.2 million Singapore dollars (8.6 million U.S. dollars). In 1986, its net profit was 18.65 million Singapore dollars (9.32 million U.S. dollars), putting it second in terms of profitability among foreign 'restricted banks' here.

Restricted banks are not full commercial banks in that they cannot open a second branch here and are not allowed to accept deposits of less than 250,000 Singapore dollars (125,000 U.S. dollars). They however can deal in the 245 billion U.S. dollar Asian currency market set up here in 1968 to provide offshore loans.

The Singapore branch of MNB made a rather dramatic impact on the local banking scene a few years after it was set up in 1971, when it became one of the largest lenders here because of allegedly liberal loan terms.

The suspicion then was that it has a political role of increasing Soviet influence in Southeast Asia, of which Singapore in the 1970s was already the financial center.

The most celebrated case involved Amos Dawe, also known as Law Sheng Moh, who with 65 million U.S. dollars borrowed from MNB's Singapore branch mounted an unsuccessful takeover bid for three small U.S. banks in the mid-1970s.

The U.S. authorities alleged Dawe was a Soviet frontman in the takeover bid and disallowed it. Subsequently, MNB sued Dawe for nonrepayment of 6.2 million Singapore dollars in 1977 and he was declared bankrupt. It was not known what happened to the balance of the 65 million U.S. dollars.

Dawe fled to Thailand where he was reported to have married a Thai princess and in 1978 was in the U.S. under the custody of the Federal Bureau of Investigation because he was allegedly being pursued by Soviet secret police, the KGB. He was jailed on fraud charges in Hong Kong in 1982 and was freed from jail recently.

The Singapore branch also financed prominent Singapore property developer Ng Teng Fong, who built landmarks such as the Far East Center, Far East Plaza and the Lucky Plaza buildings in the prestigious shopping district of Orchard Road.

Ng is now an active developer in Hong Kong's property market. He still has an account with MNB but it has been trimmed from its previously high level, Budennyy said.

'Our exposure to the property-based companies here is now very small, only a small portion of our credit exposure,' he said.

The earnings from property-based financing fluctuate with the ups and downs of the Singapore property market. Budennyy said financing East-West trade is more in line with the bank's objective besides ensuring steady income for the bank.

The Singapore branch of MNB is now effectively servicing the growing Soviet trade with Singapore and other countries. MNB's first overseas branch in Beirut opened in the early 1960s but has been inactive because of the civil war in Lebanon.

Total trade between Singapore and the Soviet Union increased by 36 percent last year to 85.3 million rubles (143 million U.S. dollars). Of this figure, Soviet exports to and imports from Singapore were 37.2 million rubles (62.4 million U.S. dollars) and 48.1 million rubles (80.6 million U.S. dollars) respectively.

MNB was formed in 1919 in London and thus has Western banking expertise. It is poised to play an important role should the Soviet Union decide to expand its Singapore links with South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The three latter countries and areas and Singapore are known as Asia's four 'tigers' because of their successful economies. Of the four, only Singapore has diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

Near East & South Asia

Vorontsov Meets With Kuwaiti, Other Envoys

Terrorism Discussed

LD122234 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] In Moscow the first deputy Soviet foreign minister, Yuliy Vorontsov, has received the Kuwaiti ambassador in the Soviet Union, 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Du'ayj. The two sides reviewed issues in connection with the tense situation in the Persian Gulf and the spreading of terrorism, including air terrorism.

Briefs Envoys on Afghan Talks

LD121914 Moscow TASS in English 1852 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, and Vadim Loginov, deputy minister, had meetings in the USSR Foreign Ministry today with Ambassadors Georgiy Pankov, Bulgaria, Sandor Rajnai, Hungary, Gerd Koenig, the German Democratic Republic, Yu Hongliang, the People's Republic of China, Wlodimierz Natorf, Poland, Ion Bucur, Romania, Milan Veres, Yugoslavia, and representatives of the embassies of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cuba, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Czechoslovakia.

At the meetings the ambassadors were informed about the signing of the documents of a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan to take place in Geneva on April 14.

The statements by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, of February 8, 1988 and the joint Soviet-Afghan statement of April 7, 1988 like the constructive approach of the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan on the whole have had a decisive impact on the successful completion of the Geneva diplomatic process. The role of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his personal representative Diego Cordovez was duly assessed.

It was stressed that the signing and a consistent implementation of the accords reached in Geneva were important steps towards attaining a complete and comprehensive Afghan settlement. In this context, it was said that the Soviet Union decisively and firmly supported the national reconciliation policy enacted by the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Meets Algerian Ambasssdor

LD121307 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 11 Apr (APS)—Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union, received today Mr Mohamed Hadj Yala, member of the FLN Central Committee and Algerian ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Talks during the meeting dealt with bilateral issues of common concern and current international events.

Receives Bangladesh Envoy

LD111343 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1005 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 11 Apr (TASS)—Today Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, received M.M. Rezaul Karim, ambassador of Bangladesh to the USSR, who conveyed a message to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, from H.M. Ershad, president of Bangladesh.

During the conversation, pressing international problems were discussed, as well as some questions of Soviet-Bangladesh relations.

Shevardnadze Departs for Geneva To Sign Accords

LD131458 Moscow TASS in English 1442 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today leaves for Geneva to take part in the signature of a package of accords on a political settlement related to Afghanistan.

Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva have been conducted since June 1982 with the mediation of the U.N. secretary-general's personal envoy Diego Cordovez.

The documents to be signed in Geneva tomorrow include a bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan on principles for their relationship, an agreement on the voluntary return of refugees, an agreement on mutual relations, a memorandum of understanding and a declaration of international guarantees.

These documents specify the commitments of Afghanistan and Pakistan, based on international law, not to interfere in each other's affairs and to refrain from intervention, and provide for creating felicitious conditions for the voluntary return of refugees and for setting up machinery to verify the sides' fulfillment of their commitments.

The Soviet Union and the United States act as the international guarantors of the Geneva accords.

Mikhail Gorbachev in his February 8 statement defined ways of defusing one of the most protracted and painful regional conflicts. It specified a concrete date, agreed with the Government of Afghanistan, for starting the withdrawal of Soviet troops—May 15, as well as a time-frame in which it was to be completed, given, of course, corresponding conditions, namely the signing of the Geneva accords by March 15.

The statement said that an Afghan settlement could contribute to lifting tensions in other parts of the planet as well.

The Joint Soviet-Afghan Statement of April 7, issued by Gorbachev and Afghan President Najibullah in Tashkent, confirmed that the announced date for starting the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan would be preserved if the Geneva agreements were signed in the shortest period.

The statement also outlined realistic ways to restore peace and stability in the region. The Soviet Union, it said, supported President Najibullah's statement on Afghanistan as an independent, non-aligned and neutral state with a multiparty political system and a mixed economy.

Afghan Rebels Receiving 'Heavy Armaments'

'Latest Antitank Weapons'

LD130811 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tomorrow's signing in Geneva of an agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan to settle the situation is highly commended by the UN secretary general. Perez de Cuellar called it an event of major political significance. At the same time, anti-government Afghan formations are continuing to receive large consignments of arms. According to a report in THE WASHINGTON TIMES, referring to Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad, the mujahidin have, for the first time, in the past 2 months received heavy armaments and the latest antitank weapons.

'Secret Transfers' Expanded

PM130931 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[V. Vinogradov "Observer's Opinion": "Milan Missiles Now...."]

[Text] AFP reports that the groupings continuing the armed struggle against the Afghan Government have started receiving Milan antitank missiles. According to its figures, a first consignment of almost 140 missiles has been delivered to opposition camps on Pakistani territory, where members of antigovernment formations have started learning to use the weapons. Consequently, the agency believes, the Milan missiles could be used by the fighters in the very near future.

It is well known that this antitank weapon was jointly developed by France and the FRG. Just who supplied them to the armed Afghan opposition formations? AFP especially stressed that it was not France. So maybe it was the FRG? Or some other country producing the Milan under license or having the weapon in its armory?

This, of course, is not a minor question. But here nonetheless is something which I would like to focus on in more detail. When the USSR announced that it would start withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan on 15 May provided that the entire package of agreements between Kabul and Islamabad was signed on 15 March in Geneva, a real hope emerged that this very dangerous seat of tension would be eliminated. Were an agreement on Afghanistan to be reached, it could be a good example for resolving similar regional problems.

However, it is already April, and through the fault of the Pakistani side no agreement has yet been signed. The United States has also to all intents and purposes backed away from its previously expressed readiness to participate in a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan on the basis of the Geneva agreements. Reports throughout March attested that the United States has noticeably expanded its secret transfers of weapons and supplies to the armed formations based on Pakistani territory.

Thus, in the first half of March THE WASHINGTON TIMES reported that shipments of U.S. weapons—mainly Stinger missiles—to six of the seven major Afghan armed opposition groupings have been stepped up. In the second half of the month, London's THE GUARDIAN reported that the United States was urgently shipping weapons worth a total of $300 million to antigovernment groupings. These comprise state-of-the-art weapons, including 120-mm mortars and combat control equipment. And the newspaper stressed that Washington was rushing to complete its transfers of weapons and supplies before an agreement on Afghanistan could be signed.

And then, at the very end of March, came the report of shipments of Milan antitank missiles, with no direct U.S. involvement. This surely suggests that Washington is not only hastening to ship as many weapons as possible itself to the Afghan opposition, but is involving its allies more and more extensively in this dirty work. Yet such steps considerably complicate the path to the signing of an agreement on Afghanistan and threaten its implementation if it actually is signed.

Is not this the ultimate aim of people who pay lip-service to the need to settle the Afghanistan situation, but try to prevent such a settlement through their practical actions?!

Afghan Treaty Presages Other Settlements

LD122009 Moscow TASS in English 1730 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—By TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov:

The process of a political settlement of the situation regarding Afghanistan has entered the decisive phase.

Analyzing the progress of efforts towards this end, politicians and the press in different countries point out that it is first of all a result of the purposeful, daring and flexible policy of the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan which have been acting persistently to quench the dangerous conflict in Asia.

It is a result of the constructive interaction of all those involved in the settlement. And it is a result, last but not least, of big efforts of the U.N. secretary-general and his personal envoy Diego Cordovez.

The documents making up the "Geneva package" will be signed as the national reconciliation policy consistently followed by the Afghan leadership gains in popularity and strength.

This policy is creating conditions for an end to bloodletting, for peace throughout the nation and for the forming of a coalition government with the participation of all forces in Afghan society, including those currently standing in opposition to one another.

What will Afghanistan's final status be among the other countries in the world? The answer to this question is to be given by the Afghans themselves, and by them alone.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it fully supports President Najibullah's statement on Afghanistan as an independent, nonaligned and neutral state whose territory will never be used for purposes hostile to its neighbors.

So-called local conflicts are sometimes called "low-intensity" wars. But this lulling term is deceptive. For the peoples drawn in such conflicts their intensity is measured in heavy losses and these conflicts themselves have long acquired an international nature.

Flames erupting in this or that region can spread elsewhere and become a direct or indirect cause of a global conflagration. This is why the USSR has believed and continues to believe that settling existing conflict situations and preventing, if possible, new ones is among the more pressing global problems.

Carrying the political settlement in Afghanistan through to the end will mean an important rupture in the chain of regional conflicts. And one should hope that in the same way as a series of further far-reaching disarmament steps have become outlined following the signature of the INF treaty, the political settlement in Afghanistan will also be followed by further steps to put out the flames of other regional fires raging in different parts of the planet.

'Soviet-Afghan Friendship Days' Open in Kabul

LD122102 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1315 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, 12 Apr (TASS)—Soviet-Afghan Friendship Days opened in the Afghan capital today. This year the Soviet Union is represented by the Armenian SSR. The current Soviet-Afghan Friendship Days are of particular significance since they are taking place on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the April revolution.

Speaking at a festive meeting held to mark this, Haydar Mas'ud, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, gave a high appraisal of the recent meeting in Tashkent between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. The Tashkent summit, he stressed, opened up a new stage in relations between our two parties, and served further to strengthen Afghan-Soviet friendship.

Red Cross Delegation Meets Afghan Officials

LD092137 Moscow TASS in English 1536 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 9 TASS—A delegation of the Union of Societies of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent of the USSR led by Dmitriy Venediktov, chairman of the union's executive committee, which is staying here on a visit, met today Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the Central Council of the Afghan National Front. During the talk A.R. Hatif described to the Soviet delegation the process of national reconciliation and the elections to the country's parliament, which are under way now.

On the same day there was a meeting between the Soviet delegation and Daud Razmyar, secretary of the Kabul City Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

There was also a meeting between the Soviet delegation and Surayah, chairman of the Society of the Red Crescent of Afghanistan. The sides discussed questions of expanding bilateral cooperation between these organizations. The USSR Union of Societies of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent handed over as a gift medical instruments and equipment to the Society of the Red Crescent of Afghanistan.

Gulf War's Impact on Kuwait Reported

PM111159 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 88 Second Edition p 7

[Own correspondent Yu. Glukhov dispatch under the "On the Spot" rubric: "Salvoes in the 'Tanker War'"]

[Text] Kuwait, April—Near the Kuwaiti capital's municipal building there is a board bearing the inscription "Shelter." Such signs have appeared in many areas of the city. The Iran-Iraq war is making itself felt in Kuwait not only in the newspapers.

Only recently newspapers carried reports on Iranian cutters' bombardment of the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan. Tehran refuted these reports; however, such incidents had already occurred before. Last May, following an Iranian missile strike, a gas liquifaction plant at Al-Ahmadi caught fire. Only the courageous efforts of Kuwaiti firefighters prevented the storehouses exploding. In another case it took 16 hours to put out the flames at the "Sea Island" Oil Terminal when fire broke out following shelling. The difficult struggle to save the holed Kuwaiti tanker "Sangari" has left its mark in the memory.

The Kuwaitis are alarmed by the madness of the "war of the cities," which involves missiles and which has once again assumed a large scale. People are learning with concern of more and more incidents where chemical weapons are used. The country's economy is being undermined by the "tanker war." It is based on oil. The normal functioning of the entire economic organism depends on an uninterrupted continuous flow of oil to external markets. But tankers are constant targets in the Iran-Iraq war.

According to the calculations of the U.S. ARMED FORCES JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL magazine, in 1984 Iraq was responsible for the shelling of 53 tankers and Iran for 18; in 1985 the figures were 33 and 14 respectively; in 1986, 66 and 45; and in 1987, 62 and 62. The number of casualties among seamen is on the increase. During the recent Iraqi raid on the Iranian oil terminal at Khark, approximately 50 people died, among whom were Filipinos, Swedes, and Britons. In an endeavor to secure itself, Kuwait has put half its fleet of tankers under the U.S. flag. The United States has taken advantage of this to reinforce its military presence in the Persian Gulf.

Kuwait is resisting involvement in the Iran-Iraq conflict with might and main. Despite friendly relations with Iraq, the doors remain open to improve relations with Tehran. Kuwait is by no means at war with Iran and Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the country's foreign minister, recently clarified this. According to him, as soom as the "war of the cities" calms down, two diplomats will be dispatched to the Iranian capital to work in the Kuwaiti Embassy.

"Make friends with your neighbor" gleams a legend on the TV screen. This is not merely the maxim of the popular local television program "Wise Thoughts." For Kuwaitis it is a commandment. They believe that security is guaranteed not by an air raid shelter but by peace with one's neighbors.

Supreme Soviet Mission Returns From Gulf Tour

Stops Over in Cyprus

LD121732 Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Nicosia April 12 TASS—The special mission of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by Georgiy Tarazevich, vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which wound up the tour of Persian Gulf countries, made a stop at Larnaca airport, Cyprus, en route to Moscow. The special mission includes deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet: Muminsho Kanoatov, first secretary of the Board of the Writers' Union of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic, and Sergey Losev, TASS director-general.

At the airport the Soviet parliamentarians were met by Michalis Poumboures and Sophiklis Hacijannis [names as received], deputies of the House of Representatives (parliament) of the Republic of Cyprus. Yuriy Fokin, ambassador of the USSR to the Republic of Cyprus, was among the welcoming party.

Arrives in Moscow

LD122204 Moscow TASS in English 2108 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Moscow April 12 TASS—The special mission of the USSR Supreme Soviet returned to Moscow from a tour of the Persian Gulf countries: the United Arab Emirates, the Oman Sultanate and Kuwait.

The special mission was led by Georgiy Tarazevich, vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, chairman of the Presidium of Soviet Belorussia's Supreme Soviet. The mission also included deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet: Muminsho Kanaotov, first secretary of the board of the Writers Union of the Tajik SSR, and Sergey Losev, TASS director general.

The delegation was met at Sheremetyevo airport by Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairman of the Presidium of Soviet Estonia's Supreme Soviet. [passage omitted]

Jurists Protest Deportation of Palestinians

LD121344 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1232 GMT 12Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr (TASS)—The Association of Soviet Jurists today protested the deportation by Israeli authorities on Monday of 20 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza strip. The practice of expelling the native Arab population from the territories occupied by Israel is in flagrant contravention of international law and Israel's obligation according to the Geneva conventions on the protection of the civilian population in wartime, stated Doctor of Juridical Sciences Igor Blishchenko, deputy chairman of the Association of Soviet Jursists and deputy USSR representative in the UN Human Rights Commission. Such actions by Israel are a form of collective punishment, which is also prohibited by the Geneva conventions, he told TASS correspondent Sergey Zanin. The showing on television channels by the Israeli occupation authorities of a video recording of the deportation can qualify as another international crime, namely, terrorizing the population, the deputy chairman said, commenting on the fact that Israel distributed a video tape on which the act of the deportation was recorded with the aim of frightening the population, which is demonstrating for the liberation of the Arab territories from the Israeli aggressors.

The routine repressive action by the Israeli authorities testifies to the impotence of Israel in the face of the wave of the national uprising of the Palestinians on the occupied territories. It is also another crude violation of international law, and Israel should bear the responsibility for this international crime, the eminent Soviet jurist stressed. The time has come to raise the issue of the creation of an international court which could not only investigate the crimes committed by Israel in the occupied territories, but also bring to international criminal liability those directly guilty of them.

Gorbachev's Book Published in Jordan

LD122222 Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Amman April 12 TASS—A ceremony to launch the book "Perestroyka: New Thinking for our Country and the World" by Mikhail Gorbachev was held in the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society today.

Addressing the ceremony, Senator Bahjat al-Talhuni, president of the society and prominent statesman of Jordan, emphasized that the appearance of this book became an important event not only in the Soviet Union but also beyond it. Its translation into Arabic provides a good opportunity to gain better knowledge of the restructuring process in the USSR, the new mode of political thinking of the Soviet leadership.

The Jordanian-Soviet relations are favourably developing in the interests of the peoples of our two countries. The visit of King Husayn to the Soviet Union and his meeting and talks with Mikhail Gorbachev in December, 1987 had an important role to play in this process.

Nikolay Trubilin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation and head of the USSR-Jordan Friendship Society, who is visiting here, expressed confidence that the publication of the book in Jordan would make an important contribution to deepening mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries' peoples.

Mikhail Gorbachev's book was brought out by the Jordanian Dar al-Markel publishers.

Tunisia's Baccouche Receives Friendship Delegate

LD131130 Moscow TASS in English 1102 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tunis April 13 TASS—Yevgeniy Zaytsev, first deputy head of a department of the CPSU Central Committee, visiting here at the head of a delegation of the USSR-Tunisia Friendship Society, has been received by Tunisian prime minister Hedi Baccouche, general secretary of the ruling RDC [Democratic Constitutional Rally]

They had an exchange of views on prospects for the development of Soviet-Tunisian relations. The two sides' striving to broaden and deepen friendly cooperation at state and public levels was emphasized.

The Soviet delegation leader informed the Tunisian prime minister of the course of the restructuring process in the USSR, and of the CPSU's activities to implement the decisions of the 27th congress of the party in the field of domestic and foreign policy.

Hedi Baccouche emphasized that the experience of the restructuring process in the Soviet Union was of great international importance. He highly appreciated the Soviet leadership's efforts aimed at ridding mankind of the nuclear threat and at looking for ways to settle regional conflicts and to assert the new political thinking in international relations.

Adamishin Meets Sudan's Prime Minister

LD090505 Moscow TASS in English 2024 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum April 8 TASS—A meeting between Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and USSR Deputy Foreign minister Anatoliy Adamishin was held here today. Anatoliy Adamishin is touring a number of east African Countries as special [words indistinct] of Soviet leadership.

The discussion of the situation in the Horn of Africa was given main attention during the conversation. The sides set out the stands of the USSR and Sudan which coincide as to the need to ensure peace, stability and goodneighbourliness in that important area on the basis of the observance of the principles of territorial integrity, inviolability of frontiers, sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs, and finding political solution to disputed problems.

Mutual striving for the further development of Soviet-Sudanese relations was expressed when matters of these relations were discussed.

'Punjab Terrorists' May Be Armed With Stingers

PM121451 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent N. Paklin dispatch: "'Stingers' in Terrorists' Hands?"]

[Text] Delhi—Indian newspapers, citing counterintelligence information, write that Punjab terrorists have obtained U.S. Stinger missiles.

They even mention a figure—six. Army experts believe that the terrorists intend to use these missiles against "low-flying, visible targets." The newspapers believe that the fact that the Indian counterintelligence service had warned that terrorists were in possession of antitank missiles 3 months before these were used in Punjab in the area of Amritsar City speaks to the authenticity of this information. Subsequently the terrorists used these missiles on three more occasions.

The Indian newspapers note that the Stingers, delivered by the United States to the Afghan antigovernment groupings in Pakistan, have begun to spill over to neighboring countries. Specifically, several such missiles had been smuggled into Iran and now there is a risk that they may be used on Indian territory.

Shevardnadze Receives Indian Ambassador

LD121731 Moscow TASS in English 1708 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today received Ambassador of the Republic of India to the USSR Triloki Nath Kaul at the latter's request.

The development of the situation around Afghanistan in connection with the conclusion of the Geneva process, the ways of the subsequent normalisation of the situation in the Middle East were discussed during the conversation. Some other topical international problems, as well as problems of the further development and strengthening of Soviet-Indian relations were also touched upon.

The conversation passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

East Europe

Further on Official Visit by CSSR's Husak

Meets With Gorbachev

LD121747 Moscow TASS in English 1731 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev met today with member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Gustav Husak, staying on an official friendly visit in the Soviet Union.

Greeting cordially the guest, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee said that the Soviet communists, the Soviet people highly appreciate Comrade Husak's huge contribution to the cause of socialism, to the consolidation of friendship and cooperation between the parties and peoples of the USSR and Czechoslovakia.

The exchange of information on the work for perestroyka, democratisation of socialist society conducted in the Soviet Union and in Czechoslovakia was central to the conversation.

"Setting the task of sharply speeding up the country's social and economic development, we at first were placing an emphasis mainly on material incentive", Mikhail Gorbachev said. "This has been and remains correct. But it was soon discovered that no less effective a stimulus is the striving of the working people to make decisions, to take an active part in management. Creating the conditions for people's initiative and self-government is precisely the essence of democratisation. To fear this means not to believe in people. And not to believe in people means not to believe in socialism".

"The party boldly takes the road to the widest and most effective democratisation. This subject will be discussed at the coming 19th All-Union Conference of the CPSU. A major and not easy question—clearcut division of functions between party and state bodies—should be discussed there in a fundamental way." "It should be decided in such a way that the party could bring into play its creative potential as the political vanguard of society and the soviets could present themselves as full-fledged representative bodies, in accordance with Lenin's notion of their role. It is also necessary to ensure that the activity of all party, state and public organizations, officials and citizens be based on a strict observance of legality, that the organic combination of initiative and responsibility be ensured. The creation of the juridical basis for socialist state should crown the reorganization of the political system".

Gustav Husak noted that similar problems, with taking into account the specific features of Czechoslovakia, had been actively discussed at the recent plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. It is necessary to develop new forms of party work, to improve substantially the mechanism of state management, enhance its effectiveness, reduce the central and local apparatus, decrease the number of ministries, revise their tasks and methods of work. All the links of the political system should act with a greater independence and a greater sense of responsibility as is required by the restructuring.

The consensus about the need to deepen cooperation and exchange the experience of the activity of the bodies of people's representation was expressed. These bodies have considerable opportunities to promote the development of mutually-advantageous economic exchange, the establishment of direct ties between enterprises, of contacts in the sphere of culture and people-to-people contacts.

The participants in the conversation were united in assessing the international situation, the ways of consolidating peace and security.

The Soviet side highly appraised Czechoslovakia's constructive role in ridding Europe of nuclear weapons, in the development of the European process.

Over a number of years Czechoslovakia has been advancing the idea of creating a comprehensive system of international ecological security. This valuable initiative deserves to be supported.

Gustav Husak emphasized that the Soviet Union's vigorous efforts aimed at ending the nuclear arms race and consolidating universal peace and security enjoy the broadest of support in Czechoslovakia. The idea of a common European home—peaceful goodneighbourliness and broad cooperation of all European peoples—is particularly close to the Czechoslovak people.

Mikhail Gorbachev asked that wishes of success be conveyed to General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Milos Jakes, to communists and the entire fraternal Czechoslovak people.

The meeting passed in the atmosphere of cordiality and complete mutual understanding. Present at the meeting were member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Foreign Minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Bohuslav Chnoupek, chief of the Office of the President of Czechoslovakia, F. Salda. Present from the Soviet side were Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Vadim Medvedev, aide of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Georgy Shakhnazarov.

Further on Talks

LD122024 Prague CTK in English 1828 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 (CTK)—Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak today held talks with Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, received the Lenin Order and left Moscow for Tashkent.

The Lenin Order was presented to Gustav by Soviet President Andrey Gromyko who said that the highest Soviet distinction was awarded in appreciation of the policy of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, as an expression of fraternal feelings towards the Czechoslovak people and recognition of the results of their work in the construction of socialist society, as well as in appreciation of their share in the struggle to avert the threat of war and in defence of world peace.

The Lenin Order was bestowed on Gustav Husak on his 75th birthday last January by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in appreciation of his service to the development of friendship and cooperation between the nations of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, and his great personal contribution to the consolidation of peace and socialism.

In the afternoon, Gustav Husak, Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek and other members of the entourage left Moscow for Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, to learn about the activity of the republic's Communist Party organization and state bodies in the restructuring and democratization of all spheres of life.

Gustav Husak was seen off at the airport by Andrey Gromyko, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and other officials.

During their meeting in the Kremlin, Mikhail Gorbachev and Gustav Husak exchanged information about the restructuring and democratization in Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

Mikhail Gorbachev said that the forthcoming 19th All-Union Conference of the Soviet Communist Party is to discuss a clear-cut division of functions between party and state bodies. The party must be able to make use of its entire creative potential as the political vanguard of society and the soviets as representative bodies with full rights. The activity of all party, state and social organizations must be based on strict observance of laws, and initiative and responsibility must complement each other organically. The reorganization of the political system should culminate with the creation of legal guarantees of the socialist state.

Gustav Husak said that similar problems were discussed, with a view to the specific features of Czechoslovakia, by the recent session of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee.

The two officials agreed on the need to promote cooperation and exchange of experience from the activity of representative bodies which have great possibilities to help develop mutually advantageous economic cooperation and establish direct contacts between enterprises, contacts in the sphere of culture and contacts between people.

Gustav Husak and Mikhail Gorbachev evaluated identically the international situation and ways to further strengthen peace and security.

Gromyko, Husak Exchange Speeches

LD122150 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1516 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr (TASS)—A.A. Gromyko today presented Gustav Husak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and president of the CSSR, with the Order of Lenin.

The presentation of this award was attended by Comrades P.N. Demichev, P.G. Razumovskiy, V.A. Medvedev, CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, participants in the Soviet-Czechoslovak talks which took place yesterday, representatives of the CSSR Embassy in the USSR, and other officials.

In his address at the presentation of the award A.A. Gromyko said:

Esteemed Comrade Husak!

Esteemed Comrades!

It gives me immense pleasure to present you, Comrade Husak, a well-tried friend of the CPSU and the Soviet people, with the Order of Lenin.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree says that you have had this award conferred on you for your great services in the development of fraternal friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union and for your great personal contribution to the strengthening of peace and socialism.

For 55 years you have been a member of the CPCZ. You have devoted the whole of your life to the struggle for the liberation of the Czechoslovak people and for their future. Before the war, when you were quite a young man, friends of our country elected you as general secretary of the "Society for Economic and Cultural Rapproachment with the Soviet Union" in Slovakia. The first bridges of mutual understanding between our socialist country and the working people of Czechoslovakia, that was still bourgeois, were only being built then, but already in those years you did quite a lot for this!

In the year of the shameful Munich, when the national bourgeoisie betrayed Czechoslovakia and gave it over to fascism for it to be torn to pieces, you were the communist who announced at the top of his voice: "We have no other way today than with the Red Army."

From 1938 to the victory of 1945, on the instructions of the party, you were in an illegal position. Four times during the war the Nazis tracked down and shot almost the entire membership of the provisional underground CPCZ Central Committee, and five times the fascists and their stooges tracked down and shot almost the entire membership of the provisional underground Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia. Your comrades, the heroes of the Czechoslovak underground, who died in those harsh years have won eternal glory. You are once of those very few leaders who was arrested more than once but passed through the tests and fire of war and by a miracle remained alive.

You were one of the organizers of the heroic Slovak national uprising, which marked the beginning of the mass struggle of the Czechs and Slovaks for liberation from fascism. Much effort and energy was given by you to the rebirth of the Czechoslovak state and to building the bases of socialism in the country.

Your talent as a political and state figure also showed through in the post of the CPCZ Central Committee general secretary. Your fruitful activity in this position is well known in your country and abroad. The signing in May 1970 of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, which you also signed, was an important stage in relations between our states. Relations between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia developed under this treaty and became even closer and more varied.

You have visited the Soviet Union many times and know our country well. Your friendly visit in May 1985, when Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and you signed a program of long-term economic and technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia for the period up to the year 2000 is especially memorable to us.

The implementation of this program will have a beneficial influence in enhancing the effectiveness of our interaction in economy, science, and technology. Dear Comrade Husak, in the Soviet Union you are known not only as a major politician and a statesman but also as a scientist who has been awarded the Karl Marx Gold Medal of the USSR Academy of Sciences for outstanding services in science. Your vivid and truthful book entitled "Evidence on the Slovak National Uprising" is dear to Soviet readers. They are familiar with the collections of your selected articles and speeches. The communist and working class movements know well your name as that of an active fighter for peace and communism. Your prominent services in strengthening fraternal friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the Soviet

Union and Czechoslovakia are highly valued: The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has awarded to you the Order of the October Revolution and four times the Order of Lenin—the highest USSR award. You have been given the title of and the medal of the "Gold Star" of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The 17th CPCZ Congress and its latest plenums mapped out serious and important tasks for speeding up the socioeconomic development of the country and the implementation of restructuring and democratization of public life in the CSSR. We sincerely wish you, Comrade President, the Czechoslovak communists, and the whole of the Czechoslovak people great success in carrying out these tasks.

Let me congratulate you again on receiving this high award and wish you good health.

In his reply speech G. Husak said:

Esteemed Comrade Gromyko!

Esteemed Comrades!

I thank the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and also you personally, dear Andrey Andreyevich, sincerely and with my whole heart for the lofty award which I have been awarded—the Order of Lenin.

I am profoundly touched by the award and highly appreciate that I have been presented with an order which bears the name of the creator of the CPSU and the Soviet state, the great revolutionary, humanist, strategist of the socialist revolution and thinker, whose ideas have exerted such a profound influence on the progress of the history of mankind, on the destinies of the peoples of the world, on hundreds of millions of people, and on my whole life.

The ideas of Vladimir Ilich Lenin inspired the Czechoslovak communists to struggle for the rights of the working people, a struggle they waged alike in conditions of capitalism and in the years of World War II, filled with suffering, of selfless struggle shoulder-to-shoulder with the Soviet Army against fascism for the liberation of our peoples, and in the building of the new socialist society embodying the age-old aspirations of our people.

In this lofty Soviet award I discern appreciation for the policy of the CPCZ, a display of fraternal feelings toward the Czechoslovak people, an expression of acknowledgement of the results of their labor in the course of the building of socialist society, and an appreciation of their contribution to our common struggle for averting the military threat and strengthening peace throughout the world. The CPCZ has traveled a long and complex road. The successes attained are the result of its creative searches, which were not however, without difficulties. The CPSU has always been an example for Czechoslovak Communists. The resolve with which Soviet communists started implementing restructuring and democratization of public life inspires and enthuses us. The CPCZ party and our people intend to go the same way.

Dear Andrey Andreyevich, esteemed friends,

Permit me again to thank you from my heart for the high award, for your warm words addressed to me.

All my life has been connected with the Communist Party struggle for the rights of working people and for the construction of a just socialist society in our country. I want to assure you that in the future, too, I will continue to devote my energies to the further all-round development of friendship, cooperation, and strengthening of the strong alliance between our peoples and our fraternal countries.

In conclusion, let me wish the CPSU, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, you personally, and the entire Soviet people great successes in implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and in the revolutionary restructuring of the economy and all walks of public life.

The speeches of A.A. Gromyko and G. Husak were received with applause.

Husak Leaves for Tashkent

LD121329 Moscow TASS in English 1314 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Gustav Husak, a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovak and president of Czechoslovakia, today left Moscow for Tashkent, capital of the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan.

Husak is in this country on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The guest was seen off at Vnukovo Airport by Andrey Gromyko, a member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, and other officials.

On the same day Gustav Husak arrived in Tashkent.

Meets Uzbek Party Chief

LD131137 Prague CTK in English 1110 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tashkent April 13 (CTK correspondent)—Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidium member and president Gustav Husak met with Rafik Nishanov, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party, here today, the third day of his official friendly visit to the Soviet Union.

During the cordial meeting, they informed each other about the topical tasks of the Communist Parties of Czechoslovakia and Uzbekistan ensuing from the conclusions of the 17th Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party.

Gustav Husak and Rafik Nishanov stressed possibilities to develop direct economic and scientific cooperation, especially in the sphere of machinery for cotton processing and the manufacture of glass and chinaware. They agreed that the development of direct contacts benefits both Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union and is an important contribution to the promotion of Czechoslovak-Soviet cooperation, alliance and friendship.

KOMMUNIST Journal Publishes Husak Article

LD122302 Prague CTK in English 1955 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 (CTK correspondent)—The victorious February of 1948 entered the life of the Czechoslovak people as a historic milestone of decisive significance, Presidium member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and President Gustav Husak said in the article "Adherence to the Revolutionary Bequest" carried by the Soviet journal KOMMUNIST.

Gustav Husak emphasized that the events of February 1948 proved the great theoretical, political and organizational maturity and moral strength of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, its readiness and ability to fulfil the mission of the leading force of the working class and the Czechoslovak people. He added that the February victory of the Czechoslovak working people was also a significant success of the international communist movement and definitively decided about the further development of Czechoslovak society towards socialism.

Regarding the political crisis in Czechoslovakia in 1968, Gustav Husak recalled that the January 1968 session of the Communist Party Central Committee, which was to ensure solution of urgent problems and fulfilment of new tasks of the social life, failed to fulfil the hopes put into it by communists and the working people. The Marxist-Leninist forces in the party faced an urgent task—to overcome the crisis. The implementation of this task with the assistance of friends was a historic test of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, the National Front, the state and the Czechoslovak people, Gustav Husak stressed.

On the current changes in Czechoslovakia he said that the restructuring of the economic mechanism and other spheres of social life, the enhancement of socialist democracy and extension of the participation of people in the management and administration, extension of the flow of information to the public and of control are considered irreplaceable preconditions for the development of socialism in the current period.

Akhromeyev Arrives in Warsaw, Begins Talks

PM121559 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report and TASS Warsaw report headlined: "Visit to Poland"]

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister, left Moscow for Warsaw 11 April on an official friendly visit at the invitation of General J. Uzycki, chief of the Polish Army General Staff.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev was seen off at Sheremetyevo Airport by Army General P.G. Lushev, USSR first deputy defense minister, Colonel General V.N. Lobov, first deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, and Soviet Armed Forces generals and officers.

Polish Ambassador to the USSR W. Natorf and Brigade General A. Czernow, military, naval, and air attache at the Polish Embassy in the USSR, were also among the send-off party.

Warsaw, 11 Apr—Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister, arrived on an official friendly visit to the Polish capital today.

At the airport he was met by Gen J. Uzycki, Polish deputy defense minister and chief of the Polish Army General Staff, and other officials.

On the same day Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev was received by Army General F. Siwicki, PZPR Central Committee Politburo member and Polish minister of national defense.

A conversation took place at the Polish Army General Staff between Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev and Gen J. Uzycki.

The Soviet military leader laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw and the cemetery-mausoleum of Soviet servicemen who fell in the fighting for the liberation of Poland's capital from the fascist occupiers.

Communique on Visit by Poland's Messner Issued

AU111327 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 7 Apr 88 p 5

["Communique on the Polish-Soviet Talks"—PAP headline]

[Text] On 6 April, at the Kremlin, there were talks between Zbigniew Messner, PZPR Politburo member and PPR Council of Ministers chairman, who was on a working visit to the USSR; and Nikolay Ryzhkov, CPSU Politburo member and USSR Council of Ministers chairman.

Z. Messner was received by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. Their talks focused on the subject of the basic issues in Polish-Soviet relations. The Polish side acquainted itself with the implementation of the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress and of subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums aimed at restructuring all spheres of Soviet life, making them democratic, and implementing a radical economic reform. The Polish side also viewed Soviet efforts to achieve a breakthrough in the international situation. The head of the Polish Government was briefed on the continuing preparations for the 19th CPSU All-Union Conference.

Z. Messner discussed the implementation of the resolutions of the 10th PZPR Congress and the second stage of the economic reform, plus the democratization of PPR socioeconomic life within the framework of socialist renewal and national accord. He said that Polish Communists and broad sectors of Polish working people fully approve of the transformations in the Soviet Union and support the USSR's foreign policy and struggle for a world free of nuclear weapons.

During the talks, particular attention was paid to the implementation of the agreements reached during meetings between PZPR First Secretary Wojciech Jaruzelski and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on the enhancement of economic integration between Poland and the Soviet Union and on the extensive use of new progressive forms of cooperation. Emphasis was placed on the importance of increased efforts to implement the top-level Polish-Soviet declaration on cooperation in the spheres of ideology, culture, and science. It was emphasized that Mikhail Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Poland will be of major importance in further consolidating the fraternal friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the PZPR and CPSU and between the PPR and USSR. The two sides expressed the conviction that the economic restructuring in both countries is permitting the attainment of a qualitatively new level of mutual economic relations. A fuller use of the material and intellectual potentials of both states for the sake of socialist construction requires a joint and persistent search for bold and unorthodox solutions that meet the requirements of the present day. In this connection, both sides agreed they would step up their efforts to develop direct production links; expand trade between border areas; and establish joint enterprises, unions, and collectives. They decided to improve the structure of mutual trade on the basis of broad cooperation and to improve the quality and technical standard of the products that they deliver to each other, which was regarded as a task of major importance. The two sides agreed that they would complete in the first half of 1988 a concept of Polish-Soviet economic, scientific, and technical cooperation for the next 15 to 20 years.

They pointed out the primary importance of implementing the complex program of CEMA scientific-technical cooperation until the year 2000 as a basis on which to implement the agreed scientific-technical policy and successfully introduce leading scientific and technical achievements to production.

In the opinion of both sides, a consistent implementation of the resolutions of the 43d extraordinary CEMA session on the subject of restructuring the mechanisms of socialist economic integration will encourage a better use of the potential inherent in the international socialist division of labor, for the sake of a dynamic development of the national economies of Poland and the Soviet Union and for the sake of a further rise in their peoples' standard of living.

The talks confirmed a consensus of views on the situation in Europe and the world and on fundamental international issues. They confirmed the determination of Poland and the Soviet Union to improve close cooperation in international issues, increase efforts to eliminate the nuclear danger, and establish a universal system of peace and security. The heads of both governments emphasized the special importance of the Soviet-U.S. Washington summit in December 1987 and the Soviet-U.S. treaty to eliminate intermediate-range operational-tactical missiles. They expressed hope that the new meeting between the U.S. and USSR leaders in Moscow will permit further progress along the road to limiting and eliminating nuclear arsenals, especially offensive strategic weapons.

To reduce the level of military confrontation, lead to disarmament, and consolidate confidence and good-neighborly relations between European states, Poland and the Soviet Union, together with the other Warsaw Pact states, will seek with determination to reduce armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals. Both sides stressed the importance of the proposals contained in the Jaruzelski Plan, the implementation of which would encourage an improvement in the military and political situation on the continent. The Soviet side reaffirmed its support for the Polish initiative.

The Polish and Soviet heads of government said that the inviolability of the European territorial and political reality established as a result of World War II and postwar developments remains an unalterable condition for the preservation of peace in Europe.

During the talks, both sides expressed their determination to further consolidate the unity and cohesion of the socialist community, develop comprehensive cooperation between them, and enhance cooperation in the international arena to consolidate universal peace and security.

The talks took place in a sincere, friendly atmosphere. The following took part in them: On the Polish side: Z. Szalajda, PPR Council of Ministers deputy chairman; M. Holdakowski, PZPR Central Committee Socioeconomic Policy Department director; F. Kubiczek, deputy chairman of the Polish Government Planning Commission; B. Kulski, PPR undersecretary of state for foreign affairs; S. Dlugosz, deputy chairman of the Polish Government Planning Commission; A. Zor, undersecretary of state in the Office of the Council of Ministers; Z. Pakula, vice president of the Polish National Bank; and W. Natorf, PPR ambassador in Moscow. On the Soviet side: Y. Maslyukov, CPSU Politburo candidate member, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the USSR Gosplan; A. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; B. Gostev, USSR minister of finance; O. Rybakov, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department [as published]; A. Kachanov, first deputy minister of foreign economic relations; V. Loginov, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Y. Moskovskiy, chairman of the USSR Foreign Trade Bank; and V. Brovikov, USSR ambassador to Poland. There were also other officials from both countries.

Ryzhkov To Visit Hungary 18-20 April

LD120848 Moscow TASS in English 0725 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, is to pay an official friendly visit to the Hungarian People's Republic on April 18-20 this year, it has been officially announced here.

Maslyukov Holds Talks With Hungary's Hoos

LD112206 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 11 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Maslyukov today received Hoos, MSZMP Central Committee member and Hungarian National Planning Office chairman. During their talk, which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere, issues concerning coordination of state plans of the USSR and Hungary for 1991-95 were discussed.

West Europe

CPSU CC Notes Death of Cypriot Party Leader

LD111747 Moscow TASS in English 1639 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has announced with profound regret to the Soviet people that Ezekias Papaioannou, general secretary of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL) and a prominent figure of the international and Cyprus working-class movement, died on April 10 in Nicosia at the age of 79.

Condolences Sent

LD111808 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—In a telegram addressed to the Central Committee of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus, the CPSU Central Committee expressed profound condolences upon the death of Ezekias Papaioannou, general secretary of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus.

"Ezekias Papaioannou dedicated his life to the struggle for the cause of the working class, for vital interests of the working people of Cyprus, for peace, democracy and socialism", the telegram says. "The outstanding communist-internationalist, true friend of the CPSU and the Soviet Union, who made a great contribution to the development of fraternal ties and cooperation between the peoples of Cyprus and the Soviet Union passed away".

The CPSU Central Committee conveyed sincere condolences to the relatives of Ezekias Papaioannou.

Delegation Attends Funeral

LD121728 Moscow TASS in English 1327 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Nicosia April 12 TASS—A delegation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) led by I.S. Gustov, a member of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived on Cyprus today to attend the funeral of the late general secretary of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL), Ezekias Papaioannou.

The delegation was met at the international airport of Larnaca by Lukas Aletras [name as received], a candidate member of the Political Bureau and a secretary of the AKEL Central Committee, and other officials.

Prospects for Soviet-British Trade Examined

PM121405 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 4

[V. Mikheyev report: "Commercial Aspect"]

[Text] A year ago in March 1987, during the visit of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to the Soviet Union, a mission of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce was opened in Moscow. What role is being assigned to this organization, and how have the last 12 months been notable? IZVESTIYA put these questions to P.I. Biryukov, the Soviet leader of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce, and R. Chase, commercial counselor at the British Embassy in the Soviet Union.

"The British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce—a joint British-Soviet chamber of commerce set up more than 70 years ago on the initiative of business circles of both countries—is designed to promote the development of trade and economic ties between the USSR and Britain," P.I. Biryukov said. "It now incorporates more than 500 British firms and about 60 Soviet foreign trade associations and other organizations (USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity, the Inturist Joint-Stock Company, and others). This year a number of our enterprises that were granted the right to enter the foreign market expressed the desire to become members of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce. The number of British member firms in this chamber is also growing.

"We see its task as vigorous assistance in expanding and deepening British-Soviet foreign economic relations. With this aim, the chamber is conducting extensive information and advertising work: A journal and a quarterly bulletin are being published with information on Soviet organizations that have been granted the right to enter the foreign market and on Soviet export goods. Information on assistance in holding exhibitions, symposiums, and seminars is available, and possibilities of setting up joint enterprises and so on are being studied as well."

"I would like to recall," R. Chase continued the conversation, "that during M. Thatcher's visit to the USSR, our mutual interest was confirmed in expanding the volume of reciprocal trade by 40-50 percent, which was discussed in the talks between our prime minister and M.S. Gorbachev in London in December 1984. The task has been set of bringing the trade turnover between our countries to R2.5 billion by 1990. In recent years, the persistent efforts of both countries have been directed toward recovering the former significance of their trade relations, which originated in the first official agreement signed by Elizabeth I and Ivan IV back in the 16th century."

"In what areas is trade developing most successfully?"

"A major contract to the tune of 260 million pounds was recently concluded for the construction in Yerevan of a plant for the production of automated systems for the control of manufacturing processes. The General Electric Company and Simon-Carvs [last name as published] will be involved in this. A project for a plant producing polypropylene in Budennovsk which the John Brown firm will construct was another notable contract. As a whole it cannot fail to be noted that the volume of trade turnover has grown by 19 percent in just 1 year.

"Talks between about 20 British firms and Soviet organizations on creating joint enterprises and plants have been an important element in the new stage of cooperation. This concerns such areas as agribusiness, machine building, the chemical and the petroleum and gas industries, medicine, biotechnology, and so on."

British Embassy Commercial Counselor R. Chase stressed in conclusion: "British industry and British firms would like to make their contribution to the restructuring process now taking place in the USSR by helping to modernize Soviet industry. We would also like to promote the sale of Soviet goods in third-country markets by offering information and knowledge in the sphere of finance, banking, and management."

Vorontsov Receives Italian Parliamentary Group

LD121437 Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, today had a meeting at the Foreign Ministry of the USSR with the delegation of the Foreign Affairs Commission of Italy's Chamber of Deputies, now on a visit to the USSR, headed by the Commission Chairman Flaminio Piccoli.

Questions of disarmament and consolidation of international security, improvement of East-West relations were discussed in a substantive talk.

Italian parliamentarians welcomed the Soviet Union's efforts aimed at having the Afghan knot untied as soon as possible. The two sides underlined special importance of the coming signing in Geneva of documents on political settlement of the Afghanistan situation, the need of continued vigorous efforts to solve other crisis situations in the world through peaceful means.

The day before, the Italian parliamentarians had meetings at the Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the Council for Religious Affairs under the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the editorial office of the newspaper PRAVDA.

The guests visited the museum "V.I. Lenin's study and apartment in the Kremlin."

Austrian Public Against Buying Swedish Planes

PM130919 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent Boris Dubrovin "Correspondent's Comment": "Are the 'Griffins' Necessary?"]

[Text] Vienna, 1 Apr—Austria recently purchased from Sweden a batch of Gripen [Griffin] interceptor fighters.

This step was taken against the wishes of the broad Austrian public. Public organizations were set up in Graz, Eichfeld, and Zeltweg—cities in Styria near which the new aircraft are planned to be deployed—opposing both the acquisition of the aircraft and their stationing in Styria. But the Gripens were purchased despite the protests. Austrian Air Force pilots were sent to Sweden and are now completing their training, and the aircraft ought to be in Austria in the summer. Austrian Minister of National Defense R. Lichal declared that "all 24 interceptor-fighters will be based in Styria."

The announcement of the decision by the federal minister of defense caused a broad wave of protest. Krainer, head of the Styria Land Government, declared a resolute "no" to the military department's plans.

The Gripens are opposed by representatives of the "Green" Party, supporters of the movement for struggle for peace, and the Austrian Communist Party.

The future will show how the story of the interceptors will end, but for the time being not a single federal Land in the Republic of Austria wishes to see the Gripens in the air above it. Broad circles of the Austrian public believe that the policy of permanent neutrality and strict observance of the State Treaty offers a more reliable protection of Austria's peaceful skies than any interceptor-fighters.

Briefs

Fish Accord With Finland

Helsinki, 6 Apr (TASS)—TASS correspondents Aleksandr Surikov and Aleksey Turbin report: Some 11,000 tons of high quality fish produce a year—this is the design capacity of a joint Soviet-Finnish enterprise to be established on USSR territory in the next few months. An agreement on this was signed in Helsinki today between the Estonian fisheries production association Estrybprom and the Central Union of Dairy Cooperatives of Finland, Valio. As the TASS correspondents were told by director of the project on the Finnish side, Olavi Puro, 70 percent of the output of the future enterprise is to be marketed in the Soviet Union, and a third in Finland and other countries. This brings to seven the number of agreements signed between Finnish and Soviet organizations on the establishment of joint enterprises. [Excerpt] [*LD080130 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 6 Apr 88*]

Protocol With Switzerland

Moscow April 5 TASS—The USSR and Switzerland have signed in Moscow a protocol on extending the agreement on developing economic, industrial, scientific, and technological cooperation. The document was signed by Soviet First Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Vsevolod Vorontsov and the Ambassador of Switzerland to the USSR, Francis Pianca. The signing ceremony was attended by the Soviet ambassador to Switzerland, Zoya Novozhilova. [Text] [*LD080132 Moscow TASS in English 1357 GMT 5 Apr 88*]

Science Accord With Spain

Madrid April 12 TASS—We express confidence that this agreement will make a great contribution to further developing mutually profitable ties between our countries. Jose Maria Escondrillas, chairman of the board of directors of Union Explosivos Rio Tinto, the largest chemical corporation in Spain, said during the signing of an agreement on scientific-technical cooperation with the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology. The agreement envisions increased cooperation in the field of metallurgy, biotechnology, medicine and fine chemical technology. At the agreement signing ceremony it was noted that this document lays down a legal foundation for boosting Soviet-Spanish cooperation in a whole number of areas of science and technology and creates pre-conditions for establishing direct links between Soviet organisations and enterprises and Spanish partners. [Text] [*LD130123 Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 12 Apr 88*]

Latin America & Caribbean

TASS Reports U.S. Serviceman Killed In Panama

LD130843 Moscow TASS in English 0733 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 13 TASS—TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev reports:

A Marine, who stood on guard outside an oil storage near the U.S. Howard Air Base in the Panama Canal Zone, has been accidentally shot by other American servicemen, an official Pentagon representative reported on Tuesday. The American serviceman, whose name has not been so far reported, died in "a tragic incident", that took place on the night of April 11-12, he stated.

The Pentagon's story says that a group of unknown persons allegedly penetrated in the territory of the oil storage. The American guards broke into two groups to make an envelopment manoeuvre, when they heard sounds resembling firing. The Marines opened fire right away. One of them was mortally wounded in cross fire.

The Pentagon's official representative also reported that in another incident that occurred in Panama that night two Army helicopters collided on the air field near the Fort Sherman base. 8 soldiers were injured.

Reprisals Launched Against Honduran Protestors

LD130901 Moscow TASS in English 0806 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Havana April 13 TASS—The Honduran Government took a decision on repealing the state of emergency, as of today, in the capital and in San Pedro Sula, the country's largest city. It was reported earlier that it had been imposed after U.S. Marines had shot dead some participants in a mass peaceful demonstration of students in front of the U.S. Embassy, which had been held in Tegucigalpa last Thursday. The government resorted to this move, seeking to prevent a wave of popular protests against the occupation of the Honduran territory by U.S. troops.

The Honduran authorities launched a broad campaign of reprisals against patriotically minded forces and population. Tanks, military trucks and troops appeared in the streets of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. Soldiers armed with automatic rifles and tear gas grenades patrolled the streets everywhere. Arrests were made in the country on the basis of the decree on the state of emergency.

The PRENSA LATINA agency reports that Honduran President Jose Simon Azcona Hoyo was forced to admit at a meeting with Honduran mass media owners that government measures justifiably assessed by political analysts as a veritable occupation of the main cities by troops, had been too stiff a response to the events. However, schools and higher educational establishments will be closed at least till next Monday. It is indicative that the president temporarily put off his trips to Spain and Italy scheduled for mid-April.

Nicaragua Protests U.S. Aid to Opposition

LD121700 Moscow TASS in English 0842 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Managua April 12 TASS—The Nicaraguan Government has called on the U.S. Administration to respect Nicaragua's striving for a peaceful settlement.

In a statement circulated here on Monday, the Government of Nicaragua stated a resolute protest in connection with the decision made by the "America" organization, which is closely connected with the Central Intelligence Agency, to give material assistance to the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA.

These actions are a breach of all norms of international law and an interference in the internal affairs of the Republic, the statement points out.

The Nicaraguan Government urged the U.S. Administration to observe norms of international law and to respect the Guatemalan peace agreements signed by the Central American countries and the accords reached at Sapoa between the national leadership and the contras, and immediately to discontinue the economic blockade of the Republic in the interests of normalising bilateral relations and strengthening overall security.

Political & Social

Readers Support Editorial Criticizing Andreyeva

PM121329 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 April 1988 First Edition carries on page 1 under the headline "Responses to Editorial Article: Principles of Restructuring: Revolutionary Nature of Thought and Action" a roundup of readers' letters written in response to a PRAVDA editorial article criticizing an earlier SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA article. All nine readers express their gratitude and support for the PRAVDA response. Reader M. Goncharov, who signs himself a 47-year old CPSU member, says:

"I fully approve the publication of the article in PRAVDA. I am a long-standing subscriber to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. On my first reading of N. Andreyeva's article 'I Cannot Waive Principles,' I was much perplexed. But after thinking about it I decided that the editorial office had shown democratic spirit in providing space for those whose stance does not match the newspaper's own. After all recently many supporters of stagnation and conservatives (covert, naturally) have been talking about press bias and saying that the materials being published reflect only a particular viewpoint. It goes without saying that the publication of that article should be followed by a discussion. I am sure the editorial office has received a host of letters rebutting the arguments in that harmful article, which endangers the cause of restructuring. But I cannot understand why they have not been published. Does the editorial office agree with the opinion of the Leningrad chemist?"

Reader L. Slutskaya, who is not further identified, says:

"Life has simply become easier since you condemned that article.

"Thank you! This means that there is still hope."

L. Vorilin, a war and labor veteran and a CPSU member since 1958, notes his "profound satisfaction" at PRAVDA's criticism of the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA article which he terms "disgraceful in its content and style." He states that the article aroused in him and "many other firm supporters of the decisive revolutionary changes not only protest but also an understandable grave alarm. This called to mind the creed of those who are slowing down restructuring and the banner raised aloft of the conservative ideological opponents of the revolutionary renewal of our society which is being conducted by our Leninist party." Vorilin expresses "full support" for PRAVDA's response and states:

"The letter 'I Cannot Waive Principles' is rightly characterized as the manifesto of the antirestructuring forces and contradictory to the basic thrust of restructuring. The author of the letter tries to whitewash the negative aspects of the past, to somehow justify the political deformations and Stalin's crimes against socialism which cost the people many thousands of honest innocent lives through the mass repressions and killed many outstanding figures. The letter also contains a number of incorrect assertions. The PRAVDA editorial article rightly points out that in so doing it defends the old authoritarian methods in our modern life and protects the right to arbitrary rule and the satisfaction of selfish demands."

M. Shmidt, a party veteran of over 60 years and a war and labor veteran, writes:

"After the appearance of the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA article I wrote a letter to that newspaper expressing my sharply negative opinion. More than 20 days have passed but I have received no reply or telephone call... N. Andreyeva's article hit my faith in restructuring a heavy blow. You have done much to restore that faith."

A. Bredov, a CPSU member since May 1944 and holder of four orders, writes:

"After reading the article 'I Cannot Waive Principles,' I considered it my duty to express my objections in a detailed letter, which I immediately sent to the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA editorial office.

"I am glad to see that my political stance fully coincides with the points raised by the PRAVDA editorial article."

B. Korshunov, who is not further identified, expresses his "tremendous interest and deep spiritual satisfaction" at the PRAVDA article. He agrees with PRAVDA that Andreyeva is not a supporter of restructuring but someone who "in many ways yearns for a past which we have all repeatedly condemned for bringing the country to a state of crisis." Korshunov fully accepts PRAVDA's argument that "people must freely and frankly speak and write about the things that bother them and about what they think is hindering the success of restructuring." He argues that the exchange of opinions even on disputed matters will lead to correct opinions and objective analyses of events. Korshunov concludes his letter by stating that the "time of the peremptory order has gone and those who tolerate this must be branded by all the people as opponents of democracy and restructuring. Not only are such people incapable of marching in step with the majority of our people, they are also incapable of leading even if they are invested with power. Such people are nothing less than a brake on restructuring at its upper levels."

Yagodin: Restructuring Highlights Education

LD110309 Moscow World Service in English
0210 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The all-round restructuring underway in the Soviet Union has highlighted the issue of education. The media have been thoroughly debating the ways to upgrade the country's secondary and higher education. A correspondent for the news agency TASS has interviewed the Minister of Education Gennadiy Yagodin, and here's a summary of the interview:

The present scientific and technological boom, he said, calls for highly trained and highly qualified personnel. These personnel must keep retraining and upgrading their qualifications, since knowledge today becomes obsolete faster than does technology. A comprehensive secondary education has been and will remain fundamental for the development of the individual. At the same time, the Soviet education authorities must now adopt a more flexible approach to it. In the past it was often assumed that any boy or girl entering a school of general education must graduate from the school and receive an education certificate.

The pupils abilities, and in some cases their wish to choose another way in life, were often ignored. Many pupils, for instance, were willing to leave their schools to receive vocational training and become skilled workers. The poor performance of many pupils at school was due to the low qualification of their teachers, outdated technical aids and overloaded training programs. At colleges and universities the methods of teaching were falling short of modern standards.

Now creativity is to be encouraged both in secondary and higher education. The students and pupils must have more time for independent studies, and this can be achieved by cutting back on the number of academic subjects.

Our reporter approached the head of the National Education Committee, Gennadiy Yagodin, to ask him a few questions specially for Radio Moscow listeners, and here's an English transcript of that interview:

[Begin recording; questions and answers in Russian with superimposed English translation] [Correspondent] Listeners in various countries wonder why the Soviet educational system has been so seriously criticized of late, even though this country's achievements in that area are recognized worldwide.

[Yagodin] I think the contradiction you've mentioned is only a seeming one. The professional qualifications of our higher school teaching staffs are unquestionably high. Our college graduates also have invariably proved their competence, whatever area of activity they have gone into. At the same time, we have a natural desire to point up our drawbacks and perfect our work. The revolution in science and technology that has swept the world is demanding that all people be provided with sufficient amount of fundamental knowledge; besides, with a more profound training in those areas of modern science that seemed to be the most promising, and this logically leads to a change in the curricula and in methods and forms of teaching.

[Correspondent] Do you think the national educaiton reform will affect also those students who come from abroad to study in this country?

[Yagodin] I think so, since we've no special system of training to offer the foreign students. All such students attend the same lectures as their Soviet colleagues do; they take part in the same seminars and work in the same laboratories. So every change in the educational process will concern the foreign students as well.

[Correspondent] Listeners are interested in whether the diplomas the foreign students receive in the Soviet Union are recognized abroad, and if not, why?

[Yagodin] Actually Soviet diplomas are recognized worldwide. Legally they are recognized in most countries, and if they are not recognized in a few then it's because of the differences in the education systems. Most Western countries have two-stage systems conferring the bachelor's and doctor's degree on university graduates. Ours is a one-stage system, the degree of a candidate of sciences that specialists take in this country approximately corresponds to the PhD of foreign education systems.

[Correspondent] And my last question is whether there are plans to expand international exchanges of university and post-graduate students?

[Yagodin] There are such plans, largely with regard to exchanges of post-graduate students and those university graduates who want to upgrade their skills abroad. In other words, these will concern the more advanced stage of higher learning. [end recording]

Construction Materials Availability Discussed

LD091208 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1800 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] A session of the standing Consumer Goods and Services Commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet took place in the Kremlin today. The work of local soviet and economic bodies in Kirov Oblast in improvements in providing the public with construction materials, organizing trade and their supplies to the public, and building and repairing housing was discussed.

In the decision adopted at the session it is proposed to the soviets of people's deputies that they implement specific measures to provide the population fully with construction and timber materials, repair and construction and transport services. The decision also contains recommendations for a number of ministries and departments.

All-Union Ministry for Construction Materials

LD081628 Moscow TASS in English 1423 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has transformed the Union-Republican Ministry of the Industry of Building Materials of the USSR into an All-Union Ministry of the Industry of Building Materials of the USSR, it was announced here.

Lithuanian Interior Minister Denies Unrest

LD081656 Moscow TASS in English 1633 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Vilnius April 8 TASS—"There has been recently an avalanche of fabrications from some Western mass media about Lithuania," said Stasis Lisauskas, minister of the interior of that Soviet Baltic republic, describing the incessant stream of reports on alleged anti-Soviet actions in the republic in mid-February.

"The atmosphere in the republic in those days was that of calm," he told a TASS correspondent. "Foreign newsmen visiting Lithuania could see that. As correspondent Thomas Shenker pointed out in CHICAGO TRIBUNE, the sermons according to the liturgy calender in the Vilnius Catholic churches passed calmly, and the sole organized action was the meeting of protest against the Reagan declaration. Reports in the same spirit were published in the British newspaper TIMES and FINANCIAL TIMES.

As far as the Radio Vatican reports about the alleged unrest with the participation of thousands of people, there was no ground for that, as the West German FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE wrote about it," the minister said. Lithuania's Health Ministry has refuted the fabrications by the Western radio stations about the beating and injuries allegedly inflicted by the militia on demonstrators. It must be noted, for that matter, that Soviet militia has neither truncheons, nor other equipment for beating people.

Stasis Lisauskas added that neither Army or other units, nor militia from other Soviet republics were summoned for the protection of public order.

The Lithuanian minister of the interior noted that the strength of militia in Soviet Lithuania is considerably smaller than that of the police during the bourgeois power in Lithuania (1919-1940). Then the police equipped with truncheons and firearms made short shrift of demonstrators, peasants and workers on strike. There were considerable human casualties in those times. Yet the U.S. President described those times as the period of freedom for the Lithuanian people.

Ukrainian Body Calls for More Goods, Services

AU061608 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 31 Mar 88 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has analyzed the activity of the republic's ministries, departments, local party and administrative organs, and economic leaders in meeting the people's need for high-quality consumer goods.

Since the beginning of the 5-year period, there have been certain changes for the better. The plans for manufacturing consumer products are being fulfilled. Output has gone up 11.7 percent, and the volume of payable services, 1.2 times. The production of articles for cultural, service, and household purposes, and light industry goods has risen. The stocks of unmarketable and outdated goods in the state and cooperative trade network have been halved.

At the same time the situation on the consumer market is still tense, the demand for many kinds of products and services has not been met, and the population's incomes have not been balanced with expenditures. Branches directly engaged in the production of products and services have not yet made a radical turn toward meeting the consumer's needs.

This is the 2d year that the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Light Industry has been working under the new management conditions. However, there have not yet been any tangible improvements in meeting demand, and the interests of various groups of the population have not been adequately accounted for in the assortment policy. An unsatisfactory situation has arisen in the manufacture of products for children, leather footwear, and other goods.

Local industry is performing badly. The Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Local Industry fell short of the 1987 plan for the output of goods. The branch missed the targets for contracted production by nearly R34 million. In a number of oblast administrations for local industry, the share of products for industrial purposes in overall production volume is too high.

Many enterprises of group "A" have thus far failed to make a tangible contribution to the production of consumer goods. At most of them, the volume of goods production is insignificant and for the most part oriented to the most simple assortment. The enterprises of the Ministries of Heavy Machine Building, of Agricultural Machine Building, of Chemical Industry, and others located in the republic, have fallen below the branch's average rates of stepping up goods production.

The shortage of commodity resources is being aggravated by the poor quality of a wide range of goods. The proportion of rejected and downgraded goods checked by State Trade Inspection organs amounted to 17 percent in the case of garments, 12 percent in the case of outer knitwear, 12 percent in the case of footwear, and 15 percent in the case of furniture. The number of complaints about a number of household machines and equipment has increased. The proportion of goods made in the republic that had to be repaired under guarantee at the request of consumers, amounted to 7 percent in the case of washing machines, 8 percent in the case of radio receivers, 10 percent in the case of refrigerators, and 33 percent in the case of tape recorders and color television sets.

The demand to speed up the rate of increasing payable services has not been met. The per capita provision of the republic's population with 12 out of the 20 basic services is below the national average. Last year nearly a half of the republic's oblasts fell short of the plan for the provision of services. Physical culture and sports establishments are not adequately developing payable services, and there are significant unused reserves in respect of increasing transport services, as well as the services of medical and cultural establishments. The standard of consumer services is unsatisfactory, particularly in the countryside.

Serious deficiencies still have not been overcome in trade services. The Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Trade with its services does not study demand sufficiently, do not provide industry with reliable information about market conditions, and is not orienting industry toward producing products that are needed.

All this has a negative impact on the state of monetary circulation.

The republic's ministries, departments, and executive committees of the soviets of people's deputies accept the fact that a significant number of enterprises, rayons, and oblasts fall short of production targets, and fail to ensure the rate of growth necessary to successfully implement the comprehensive program for products and services. Individual leaders are unaware of the economic, social, and political significance of the problem. It is intolerable that the proportion of enterprises falling short of the plans for products amounts to 16 percent, including in Zaporozhye, Chernigov, and Chernovtsy Oblasts to 20 percent, and in Poltava Oblast to 25 percent. In the 2 years, the programmed targets were missed by 16 oblasts, 8 republic-level and union-republic ministries and departments, and by the enterprises of 9 all-union ministries.

Many light industry enterprises are far less loaded with work than in other union republics. Inadequate use of local raw and usable waste materials for commodity production has been made by Vinnitsa, Lvov, Ivano-Frankovsk, and Rovno Oblast administrations for local industry. Local party and administrative organs make insufficient efforts to strengthen the material base, to build, to reconstruct, and to commission on schedule facilities intended for the production of products and for rendering services to the population, as well as trade and public catering enterprises.

The cooperative movement is underdeveloped, and cooperative societies still have not made an appreciable contribution toward saturating the market with the necessary products and services. Cooperative societies do not always find support in the executive committees of local soviets.

This subject was discussed in an exacting way at a conference of obkom secretaries held in the headquarters of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee. The conference defined concrete measures to invigorate organizational work in labor collectives whose activity is directly connected with satisfying people's needs for products and services. Party committees have been instructed to tighten control over developing the sphere of services and production of products, and to ensure that each enterprise fulfills the plans and accomplishes its tasks. The obkom secretaries familiarized themselves with the experience of advanced Kiev city enterprises in the production of products and in rendering services to the population, as well as with products made by cooperative societies.

The ways to implement the republic's comprehensive program for production and services was examined with the participation of directors and party committee secretaries from a number of faltering enterprises. The attention of the Kiev motorcycles plant's party committee and management was called to the need to significantly improve the quality of its products, and to produce new inexpensive and technically updated models of motorcycles. It has been found expedient to examine the ways to speed up the comprehensive reconstruction of the Kharkov bicycles plant to produce the necessary number of tourist and sports bicycles of new models. The party committee and management of the Aleksandriya electromechanical plant have been instructed to take steps to raise capacities for and the output of complex domestic equipment, which is in constant demand.

Leaders of oblast organizations and responsible obkom and oblispolkom functionaries along with members of the Zhitomir Obkom bureau have critically examined the situation in the oblast. They have called attention to the need to make effective use of local resources to increase production, to overcome the shortage of individual kinds of products and services, and to balance the population's cash incomes with expenditures. The instruction has been given to intensify the collectives' organizational work in favor of adopting the principles of full economic accountability and self-financing, of increasing their independence, and of motivating enterprises. Pains are to be taken to steadily observe the precepts of the USSR Law on State Enterprises (associations).

In compliance with the tasks approved by the republic's government for the additional production of products and services, it is essential to examine the situation at every enterprise, to ensure that contracts for the supply of products are adopted and absolutely carried out, and that the volume of payable services increases. The departments of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee have established control over the implementation of the planned measures.

Ukrainian Party Criticizes History Institute

LD111110 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0315 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has examined the work of the Party History Institute attached to the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and the Ukrainian branch of the Marxism-Leninism Institute of the CPSU Central Committee on raising the level of scientific research and strengthening its links with practice. [passage omitted]

The restructuring of the institute's work is proceeding slowly. The level of scientific research and its returns seriously lag behind social needs. While approving the plans for research to come, petty themes are included, (?there are too many contributors who avoid) dealing with comprehensive themes or orienting research toward the generalization of activities of party committees. Research work fits inadequately the needs of party and ideological activities, very few proposals and recommendations are submitted to Central Committee departments and those of party obkoms. The coordination of party and historical research in the republic is exercised merely formally.

The UKRAINSKYY ISTORYCHNYY ZHURNAL does not publish many theoretical articles of a party-historical orientation. It seldom holds discussions on acute scientific problems, its analysis of historical literature is shallow, and the reviews it publishes are of a complimentary nature.

The magazine responds weakly to lecturers' inquiries and is not popular among readers. It has allowed serious miscalculations in cadre policy.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has recognized that the level of scientific research at the institute and its practical returns do not correspond to contemporary needs. It has instructed the institute's governors and party committee to take energetic steps in order to remove all shortcomings in its work. [passage omitted]

Ukrainian Party CC Examines Youth Education

AU120759 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Ukrainian 5 Apr 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] **The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has examined the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee's work to restructure the ideological and moral education of youths in conformity with the 27th CPSU Congress decisions.** [boldface as published]

The decision notes that, in implementing the decisions of the 27th party congress and the directives of the 20th All-Union Komsomol Congress, the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee and the republic's Komsomol committees have intensified ideological and moral educational work among young people, and are seeking new ways to shape the political and moral qualities of young men and women, ways that answer democratization and glasnost. This helps increase the social activity of youths, and enhance their initiative in accomplishing the tasks set for restructuring and accelerating.

At the same time it was noted that in the work performed by Komsomol organizations to temper young people ideologically and morally, deep radical changes still have not taken place. This work is being carried out frequently without the processes taking place in society and in the youth milieu, and of young people's spiritual needs being taken into account. Progress in renewing the content and forms of political education is very slow. Some Komsomol functionaries and aktivists are unable to have candid talks with youths, and evade sharp problems in discussions. Appropriate efforts have not been made everywhere to cultivate among young men and women a correct historical awareness, and patriotic and internationalist convictions; to raise their culture in international relations, and to prepare them for service in the USSR Armed Forces.

Fixed stereotypes prevail in the labor education of youths. Not all Komsomol organizations have become either pioneers in work performed in a new way, or organizers of concrete undertakings. To encourage young men and women's initiative and to cultivate their feelings of production masters, insufficient use is being made of the opportunities that have emerged when labor collectives changed over to new management conditions, when their independence expanded, and when advanced forms of labor organization and motivation were adopted. A conciliatory attitude has been assumed here and there toward mismanagement, the parasitic mentality of some young people, and to the breaches of labor and production discipline. Komsomol committees lack persistence and consistency in boosting the prestige of learning, and in improving students and pupils' preparation for independent lives and labor.

The ideological and moral education of youths is not always properly coordinated with the organization of their free time. Some Komsomol committees are out of step with new trends and fashions among youths, and are unable to steer them in the necessary direction. Promoting physical sports and culture has not been given enough attention. The work carried out to raise young people's legal culture, and to prevent and to eradicate antisocial phenomena still remains ineffective. These and other shortcomings are explainable by the fact that the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee, its bureau and secretaries are still slow in restructuring their work, and are timid about mastering new non-standard attitudes. Many Komsomol committees still have not made a real turn toward youth problems, have not sought to realize socially relevant youth initiatives, ideas, and suggestions. Radical improvements are needed in the ways used to find, to generalize, and to disseminate the best experience in the political and moral tempering of young men and women. The responsibility of basic Komsomol organizations for youth education has been abated.

The Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee and Komsomol committees still have not sufficiently combined their efforts with administrative, trade union, and economic organs. In a number of branches, real care has not been given to young men and women's working and living conditions, and their conditions. Young people did not meet everywhere with support for their initiatives, particularly involving the development of a system for scientific and technical creativity, the construction of apartment blocks and the formation of housing cooperative societies for youths, and the increased assortment and sales of goods for young people. The Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Education, State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education, and Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education are insufficiently engaged in reforming the general and the vocational schools and in restructuring higher and secondary specialized education, and pay inadequate attention to the democratization of life in school collectives.

Obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms have failed to fully implement the CPSU Central Committee decision on further improvements in work among youths in conformity with the results of the 20th All-Union Komsomol Congress. Communists are not really accountable for the state of educational work among youths. Some party, administrative functionaries, and economic leaders have inadequate contacts with young people in labor collectives, educational institutions, and dormitories, rarely participate in Komsomol committee sessions and meetings, and for this reason are insufficiently aware the concerns and moods of young men and women.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has instructed the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee (under Comrade V.I. Tsybukh) to use the decisions of the 27th party congress and the February (1988) CPSU Central Committee plenum as guidance, to resolutely deepen restructuring in the ideological and moral education of youths; and to concentrate its main attention on giving them an integral Marxist-Leninist world outlook, high political and civil qualities, and firm patriotic and internationalist convictions. The importance of perfecting the substance, forms and methods of political education, of agitation, propaganda, cultural, and enlightening work in conformity with restructuring tasks and with the processes taking place in the youth milieu has been emphasized. It is expedient to cultivate among young men and women a class approach to evaluating events and social phenomena, irreconcilability to bourgeois ideology and ethics, and the ability to defend socialist ideals and spiritual values.

It is highly important for Komsomol committees to enhance labor education, to engage Komsomols and young people in practical radical restructuring in all spheres of public life, and in accelerating socioeconomic development. Every Komsomol organization should have its concrete target, its priority task. To cultivate among young people the new art of production management, to update their way of economic thinking, and to foster their activity and responsibility, it is essential to make full use of the new management conditions adopted at enterprises, organizations, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes.

Party, administrative, trade union, and economic organs, the decision emphasizes, are expected to encourage by all means young people's initiative, and to cooperate in setting up, on the principles of economic accountability and self-recouping, associations to meet their needs, as well as the needs of the national economy. Participation in voluntary labor associations must not divert young men and women from their main jobs in production, from their studies or public activities. Constant efforts are to be taken to improve working conditions for young laborers, to promote their professional development, and to meet their social needs.

The Ukrainian SSR ministries, departments, Trade Unions Council, and trade union committees jointly with the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee are expected before 1 June 1988 to examine the progress in implementing the comprehensive plans for work among youths engaged in the corresponding branches, and to invigorate the activity of the commission for work among youths.

The Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee along with the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education, Ministry of Education, and State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education are expected to ensure that the role of Komsomol organizations at educational institutions in the ideological and moral education of students and pupils, in shaping their dialectic way of thinking, and scientific materialistic views increases.

The Ukrainian Komsomol Central and lower committees must concentrate on radical improvements in the work of Komsomol organizations to prepare young people for the defense of the homeland; to intensify the military and patriotic training of the future soldiers; to cultivate among them discipline, good organization, and collectivism; to increase the responsibility for the quality of fundamental military training, for technical skills, and for scoring the Ready-to-Labor-and-Defense marks. They must actively participate in expanding the network of associations for military and patriotic activity, and of defense-sports and convalescence camps; must widely engage young reserve soldiers in military and patriotic training; and must take more care of veterans of the Great Patriotic War, of internationalist ex-combatants, and of the families of soldiers fallen in discharging their internationalist duty.

The Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee, Trade Unions Council, the Ministry of Culture, State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, creative unions, and public organizations are expected to organize free time for youths in a coordinated way, and for this purpose to make better use of cultural and sports facilities, and to encourage the creative initiative of amateur groups.

The cultivation among young people of such universal human qualities as decency, conscientiousness, charity, respect for old people, the parents, the woman, and care for the family and the children should constantly be in the field of vision.

Unwholesome trends and fashions in the youth milieu, the manifestations of a consumer attitude to life, hooliganism, moral dissoluteness, drunkenness, drug addition, and other negative phenomena should be treated with more intolerance everywhere. In cooperation with administrative and law enforcing organs, it is expedient to improve the legal education of youths, and to invigorate the activity of Komsomol people's squads.

The Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee, oblast, city, and rayon Komsomol committees must be more energetic in restructuring the style of their work. They are expected to concentrate their main efforts on the organizational and political consolidation of basic Komsomol organizations, and to consistently pursue the policy of democratization in internal Komsomol life; to improve work among Komsomol cadres, and to cultivate among them responsibility, efficiency, and the need for constant contacts with youths.

The need to strengthen leadership over the youth mass media and to increase the educational impact of their published materials was pointed out.

The party committee of the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee apparatus (under Comrade V.A. Shibayev) has been instructed to increase the responsibility of communists for the matter at hand, to systematically examine reports on their personal part in restructuring work among youths, and to make constant efforts to raise the ideological and theoretical standards and businesslike qualifications of the Central Committee staff members.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat, departments, obkoms, gorkoms, raykoms, and basic party organizations are expected to tighten control over the measures to implement the CPSU Central Committee decisions on further improvements in work among youths in conformity with the results of the 20th All-Union Komsomol Congress; to increase the responsibility of administrative and trade union organs and economic leaders for the level and effectiveness of youth education; and to settle all problems concerning young people's work, study, lives, and recreation with the participation of Komsomol organizations.

Chernobyl Area Radiation Levels 'Normal'

LD120945 Moscow TASS in English 0922 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kiev April 12 TASS—Two years after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant the radiological situation is normal in Kiev. This conclusion has been drawn on the basis of observation data collected by many services watching over the ecological situation in the capital of the Ukraine and around it.

Oleg Serebryakov, head of the Ukrainian Centre of Radiation Control and the Study of Environmental Pollution, said in a TASS interview that air control was exercised with the help of filtering-ventilation installations specially designed for taking samples of radioactive aerosols from the near-ground atmosphere. Some 70,000 cubic metres of the air are pumped through the filters during 24 hours. After that specialists study the filters, calculate total beta-activity, determine the isotope composition and make a radiochemical analysis of the particles caught in the filter.

"The data obtained in the past two weeks on the territory under control stretching from Bryansk to Odessa show that the radioactive contamination of the atmospheric near-ground air varies from day to day", Serebryakov said. He pointed out, however, that it is hundreds of times smaller than the established permissible concentration level. In the first decade [as received] of April the radiation background in Kiev varied from 20 to 30 microroentgens per hour. This is equivalent to the natural radiation background in that area.

Serebryakov said that the radiation background was being measures in Kiev in about 100 points. Nowhere the rising of its level was registered. The state of water is under continuous control. Samples are taken in 13 points—in the mouths of Rivers flowing into the Kiev Sea and the Dnieper. No deviations from the norm have been observed. "Thousands of samples taken in 1987 and 1988 prove the good condition of water", Oleg Serebryakov pointed out.

Ukraine Health Minister on 'Normal' Radiation

LD111031 Kiev in English to Europe 1800 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The radiation situation in kiev, 2 years after the accident at the Chernobyl AES, is completely normal. At present, the radiation background here is the same as it was before the Chernobyl accident.

This has been revealed by Anatoliy Romanenko, Ukrainian health minister. He refuted the allegations of the increased level of radiation at the Dniepr and Pripyat rivers as a result of the spring high water.

Today, residents of Keiv do not face any danger connected with the level of radiation, declared the minister.

Settlers From Chernobyl Populate Slavutich

LD101530 Moscow TASS in English 1124 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Kiev April 10 TASS—By TASS correspondent Alexey Petrunya: A large shopping centre opened in Slavutich, a new town where first families of workers from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant moved only two weeks ago, offering a wide range of household goods.

The government took a decision to build Slavutich 18 months ago to ensure normal conditions of life and work for the Chenobyl nuclear power plant workers. The town can be called Druzhba (friendship), because it is being built by representatives of eight Soviet Union republics: Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

"How did you settle in a new place?" this correspondent asked the settlers.

"We live in a beautiful four-room cottage," says Aleksandr Gusev, operator of the chemical shop at the nuclear power plant. "My wife was invited to work at a child-care centre, and my daughter goes to school which opened nearby."

"Slavutich has a good layout," adds electrician Vladimir Popov. "City authorities took care of every detail. The city has a health-building centre, department stores which sell goods and foodstuffs, a community centre, a hospital with an outpatient clinic, cafes, canteens, schools and child-care centres. I like the atmosphere of openness in which flats were allocated. People have complete and objective information on the town and its future."

Speaking on the prospects of Slavutich, chairman of the Executive Committee of the City Council Aleksandr Pankov noted that Slavutich is designed for 20,000 residents. The new town will have a wide network of transport and community services. Commuter trains will operate between Slavutich and the nuclear power plant, 50 kilometres away from it.

Kolbin: Perestroyka Requires Ideological Support

PM111009 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "The Energy of Renewal Must Be Directed to the Practice of Restructuring"]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 8 Apr—There will be a fundamental improvement in ideological work only if all party organs from top to bottom without exception engage daily in questions of communist education and cadres' ideological tempering, if teaching skill, profound theoretical knowledge, and organizational abilities become the main criteria in assessing the qualifications of a party worker of any rank. This idea was the leitmotif of the republican party aktiv meeting held here today.

G.V. Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee, delivered the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee Bureau report "on the results of the CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum and the republican party organization's tasks in providing ideological backup for the new stage of restructuring and in intensifying the reform of secondary and higher schools."

Restructuring demands from us enormous, extraordinary efforts in implementing the radical economic reform and in satisfying the population's urgent needs, the report and the speeches delivered by the aktiv participants noted.

There are already certain successes on this path. For the first time the level of fulfillment of contract commitments for deliveries of industrial output has risen to 99.5 percent in the republic.

But the positive trends should not give rise to complacency. The restructuring mechanism has not yet been put fully in motion, production capacities are not fully loaded, the materials intensiveness of output is high, and there are many serious shortcomings in organizing production and labor. Today the fundamental path for increasing Kazakhstan's contribution to the all-union coffers lies in the resolute restructuring of the structure of the national economy.

The meeting adopted a resolution urging the party committees and all Communists to launch practical work for the reliable ideological backup for the new stage of restructuring and the further intensification of the reform of public education and to direct the efforts of all the republic's working people toward the successful fulfillment of the plans of the 3d year of the 5-year plan and a fitting greeting to the 19th All-Union Party Conference.

Tajik Oil Chief Sentenced for Bribe-Taking

LD082010 Dushanbe Domestic Service in Russian 2320 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The shots that rang out 5 years ago in the office of the Tajik SSR State Committee for the Supply of Petroleum Products chairman troubled few in the republic much. Many believed that the tragic incident that resulted in human casualties had placed a period after the activities of the criminal band that was active in the system supplying the national economy with fuel and lubricants. For the man bent on assassination, the boss of a gasoline station, was settling scores with his confederates in the ramified network of an oil business that encompassed all levels of the state committee. It was expected that the newly appointed chief, Amonov, mindful of the sad fate of his predecessor, would at last introduce order into the economy.

But, as the case that has ended in the Supreme Court of the Tajik SSR shows, the shots placed a comma rather than a period in the affair. It is paradoxical that it was this very Amonov who ended up at the center of the legal investigation, accused of taking bribes on a particularly large scale. In the dock alongside him were (Salibayev), former directer of the Dushambe oil base, and (Khayrilayev), (Rusbalov), and (Khaydarova), who—again formerly—worked under him. As a result of their criminal activities millions of rubles' worth of fuel is lost each year in the republic; 40 per cent of private cars seem to run on air. But it is not magic. Oh no: their tanks are filled with petrol filched from the state.

The court has sentenced former administration head Amonov to 12 years deprivation of liberty plus the confiscation of his property. Some of the cases are still at the preliminary investigation stage; others are being examined in the Supreme Court of the Tajik SSR.

Stavropol Kray Management Apparatus Streamlined

PM060815 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent V. Oliyanchuk report: "The Fewer Offices, the Better"]

[Text] Stavropol—A session of the Stavropol Kray Soviet has adopted a decision on improving and streamlining the management structure.

It should perhaps first be said what preceded this decision. In the last 2 years Stavropol has seen quite a few changes in the management of industry, construction, transport, and, in particular, the agro-industrial complex, all whose subunits have been working under conditions of full economic accountability and self-financing. Management has become tighter and more flexible and has in many respects eradicated lack of coordination and duplication between departments. City and rayon organizations and labor collectives have more self-confidence. The management apparatus at various levels has shed 2,100 people. This has had a favorable impact on the state of affairs.

Here are a few examples. Around 20 enterprises and organizations have been incorporated in science and production associations, which has allowed comprehensive targeted programs to be successfully carried out. The first two agro-industrial combines—"Izobilnoye" and "Kavkaz"—have performed well, and another three—the Karachayevo-Cherkesskiy, Budennovskiy, and Predgornyy—are now being formed. A cooperative-state rural construction association based on the former "Stavropolselstroy" and "Kraykolkhozstroy" is operating. An integrated territorial administration for industrial, civil, and health resort construction has been formed. Thirteen construction and repair organizations have been amalgamated in the "Stavropolgrazhdanstroy" Association. A single road transport association has now replaced three administrations, and two railroad departments have been merged. Economically accountable associations have begun operating instead of purely administrative subunits in the service sphere.

The kray soviet's new decision continues the trend of improving the management structure. Rough drafts and specific proposals were agreed with the ministries and departments concerned and were supported in the government. They were then submitted for discussion by deputies. The drafts were agreed at the center, in Moscow, not merely in order to play safe—much falls within the direct prerogative of those ministries and departments. The mutual understanding that was reached has bolstered confidence in success.

The changes have primarily affected the krayispolkom. A main planning and economic administration has been set up, charged with drawing up and implementing comprehensive plans for the kray's socioeconomic development. The following administrations have been formed: A health administration (combining health care departments, the pharmacy service, and "Medtekhnika"); a public education administration (merging the public education department and the vocational and technical education administration); a trade administration, to which enterprises and depots belonging to the former public catering administration and subunits of the RSFSR Glavkurorttorg [Main Administration for the Health Resort Trade] have been transferred; and a culture administration taking under its wing the organizations of the disbanded administrations for the provision of movie facilities and local industry together with enterprises of the former administration of arts and crafts and souvenir production. The "Stavropolkhlebprodukt" Association has been set up based on the krayispolkom's baking and pasta industry administration and the grain products production administration.

Amalgamation also took place in the "Stavropolstroymaterialy" Association, the material and technical supply administration, and the fish industry administration;

and the Mineralnyye Vody aircraft production association—a new association absorbing the Mineralnyye Vody, Stavropol, and Pyatigorsk aircraft detachments—has been set up.

In all 50 kray administrations and organizations are being transformed into 12 amalgamated bodies. Thirty percent of the krayispoikom staff has been shed and the posts of three deputy chairmen have been abolished. The same cuts are being carried out throughout the management apparatus at kray level. A total of 4,600 people have been released. Two-thirds of these workers will be able to apply their ability and professional knowledge in the sphere of material production.

The decision adopted by the session stresses that the implementation of the planned measures will help strengthen democratic principles in the leadership of the national economy, make use of economic management methods, and increase soviets' powers. These transformations are an essential and important stage of restructuring.

Moscow City Council To Discuss Housing Shortage

LD090837 Moscow TASS in English 0806 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—One of the main issues to be discussed at a session of the Moscow City Council (Mossoviet), which opens today, is the draft comprehensive programme aimed at providing each Moscow family with a separate flat by the year 2000.

As is known, there is an acute shortage of housing in the country, which explains why the 27th CPSU Congress named this problem among one of the main social tasks. It is not for the first timme that the goal of providing the population with separate flats is being set. Earlier plans named 1980 as the year when that goal would be met. However, the plans fell through in the so-called period of "stagnation" when inadequate material base proved it to be unworkable.

Things are different now. The housing problem in the capital has never been so thoroughly studied as now. The drafting of the comprehensive programme was preceded by a detailed study of the situation, demographic tendencies, and the possibility of building new housing developments, boosting the capacity of the building industry and even making new type designs of residential houses.

Following the completion of the work, an actual city-wide referendum started. The main provisions of the programme were discussed in the commissions and groups of deputies, in Moscow districts. Deputies informed work collectives and city-dwellers about the project. Discussions involved some 112,000 Moscow residents, and several dozen thousand letters came to the editorial offices of the newspapers which published this document, to Moscow TV and radio. Nearly 800 suggestions and remarks, made by working people, were taken into account in this or other form in the final draft of the comprehensive programme.

"The overwhelming majority of people taking part in the meetings favoured social justice ini allocating flats, a simplified procedure for their exchange, different rents depending on the size and quality of flats, and a gradual switch-over to planning in real flats rather than in abstract square metres," a TASS correspondent was told by Yuriy Prokofyev, secretary of the Mossoviet Executive Committee.

Taking into account these goals, nearly 2 million people need their living conditions improved, while a total of 4.5 million Muscovites will move house before the end of the century if the quota of providing a separate comfortable flat with the living area of not less than 9 square metres per man is to be met. Specialists estimate that 48 million square metres of housing, or a third of the available housing in the capital, will have to be built for the purpose. Nearly half of new housing developments will appear inside the bounds of the capital, while the remaining half on specially allocated territories outside the motorway encircling the city.

The plan also provides for preserving the inimitable ages-old architectural appearance of the city and the traditions of Moscow architecture.

Town's 'Failing', 'Red Tape' Brings Sanctions

LD110431 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0000 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The workers of the Poronaysk Town Committee have been subjected to party sanctions. It was revealed that the town committee is failing to fulfil the demands for reinforcing social legality. Workers of the law enforcement bodies are preventing crimes from being entered in the books and are permitting red tape in investigations of criminal cases. [Words indistinct] in the struggle to strengthen protection of citizens' rights and legitimate interests. Taking into account the fact that these infringements are taking place in other areas, too, the Sakhalin party obkom has made it incumbent on all the oblast's town and rayon committees to take steps to eradicate such shortcomings.

'Inadequate' Airport Inspections Detailed

PM111100 Moscow TRUD in Russian 8 Apr 88 p 4

[I. Donskoy article under the rubric "Food for Thought": "Preflight Inspection"]

[Text] "Next," said Natalya Dubrovskaya, Domodedovo airline official on inspection duty, and handed the passenger his bag. But the air traveler who was given his baggage never boarded the plane. Staffers of the Moscow internal affairs administration for air transport produced from his bag a grenade, wrapped in a newspaper.

"The first to notice the bag," M. Chikin, chief of the criminal investigation administration, observed, "was militia officer Nikolay Bukin. He was alerted by a dark, oval object hidden at the bottom, which was shown up by the scanner. But this time the 'offender' was... an employee of ours."

The "training alarm" sounded at the Moscow airport on 4 March. Three days later, inadequate inspections by air security guards in Irkutsk led to dire consequences. A double bass which was allowed onto an airliner without inspection proved to be a "stockpile" of sawed-off guns which, in the hands of criminals, were later to "play their part" in the tragedy that ensued.

Passengers are used to preflight baggage checks. They know what you can and cannot take with you on the flight, and they try not to make the already troublesome business of traveling any more complicated. But at the same time such apparently harmless bags, packages, and briefcases fairly frequently turn out to contain knives, bullets, signal rockets, and even more serious weaponry. Last year, solely at the capital's airports and the 16 airports of central Russia served by the internal affairs administration's inspection service, 37 firearms were confiscated.

The internal affairs administration for air transport is familiar with many of the subterfuges of dangerous passengers. They told me about various ways of disguising munitions, coloring homebrew to look like fruit juice, camouflaging inflammable substances... Last year nearly 4 tonnes of homemade spirits and 27 kg of drugs were found in hand baggage. But here, too, the inspection staffers are not always attentive. There was a case when a small quantity of mercury which was not detected by the special inspectors and was spilled on board the plane put the airliner out of commission. Once some acid that was let through at Domodedovo "took effect" in the air over Siberia and caused problems.

Since the beginning of this year some 30 "stowaways" have been detained before boarding planes at Domodedovo, after slipping through the inspections. Sometimes the airmen themselves, like, for instance, M. Zubchenok at Vnukovo, allow their acquaintances to embark without an inspection stamp on their tickets. There have been such cases at Sheremetyevo and Bykovo. Sometimes violators are given official passes to the airfields by friends.

Militia Colonel V. Parfenov, chief of the administration, asked why airport control sometimes fails, replies: From the first, the inspection process has had two masters. Employees of the internal affairs organs are responsible for seeing that all passengers undergo this procedure. Aeroflot workers check the tickets and stamp them. Both use scanners or simply inspect baggage. The instructions governing their operations were drawn up by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and, alas, suffer from a lack of precision. Even after carefully studying them, for instance, many of the country's airports do not know whether people carrying official weapons are allowed or banned. Geologist V. Volobuyeva from Magadan reported that at Magadan airport nobody objected to her boarding the plane carrying signal rockets, yet at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy they asked her to hand over the rockets.

"So what's the problem?" the passenger may ask, with justified perplexity. "A single master of the situation must be designated. Let him draw up the necessary instructions, and assign the duties of inspectors to those who will reliably cope with them...." But the militia does not have enough cadres, in this respect it is, so to speak, an "appendage" to Aeroflot. Moreover the inspection equipment belongs to the airline workers.

The equipment is worth a special mention. During four training inspections at the Central Moscow air terminus, stationary metal detectors failed to detect "armed violators." A recent inspection of these instruments at the airports revealed that one-third of scanners have long been due for replacement and one-half of the metal detectors should be scrapped. But the ministry is not worried. Why should it be, when there are people in militia uniform at hand? Let them be responsible...

Yet the passenger entrusts his fate and his life in the air to Aeroflot, not to the ground-based militia. It is not the militia that puts out advertising inviting the passenger to fly, or that sells him his ticket. So safety on the flight is the concern first and foremost of Aeroflot. It would be natural to assume that N. Dubrovskaya, the inspection official who let the "passenger with a grenade" through, would be penalized. But no, she was merely scolded.

The episode could have been a useful lesson, but... At the next check on the special inspection point at Domodedovo, there were no employees of the airline shipment service on the spot at all: One of the girls had gone off on personal business, the other had been sent by the controller to meet a plane.

The internal affairs administration for air transport showed me an impressive package of official correspondence. Here there were replies from airline leaders to alarming statements by the militia on various instances of violations in the special inspection zone. If you believe the replies, the militia has no grounds for further concern. The authors of the letters assure them firmly: The facts were confirmed, a meeting was held, strict measures are being adopted... Yet repeat checks not infrequently record the same negligence. Or is it negligence? Perhaps things should be called by their names? When, because of someone's entirely conscious laxity, for which there is no justification, our lives—as passengers—are endangered, this is a criminal matter... The tragic events which occurred on board the airliner on a flight from Irkutsk to Kurgan and Leningrad once again confirmed this.

Controversy Over 'Afghan' Ex-Combatants

AU071442 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 1 Apr 88 p 3

[Report by RADYANSKA UKRAINA special correspondent V. Bratyna: "It Is the Memory of Afghanistan That Hurts...."]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] "Servicemen disabled as a result of injury, contusion, mutilation or disease contracted in discharging their internationalist duty are entitled to benefits given to persons disabled in the Great Patriotic War."

This is a quotation from legal advice published in RADYANSKA UKRAINA. On that same day the telephone rang in the office of the editorial board:

"This is an ex-combatant disabled in the Patriotic War."

"Your name and address please?"

"That does not matter. You better tell me who has granted you the right to equalize those 'warriors' (let the abusive adjective remain on the conscience of the caller) with us ex-combatants disabled on the front."

"There have been appropriate official decisions..."

"We have received benefits from the homeland for having paid the price of the victory with our blood, with our health. What sort of victory have they won?"

This is the kind of knotted questions, let alone the aggressive tone and the habit of using the pronoun "we" in reference to oneself, some readers happen to ask. And, whether we like it or not, these questions will get ever sharper. There seems to be only one way out: As far as glasnost is concerned, the answers must not yield to the questions. In tackling the Afghan issue, for far too long have we had to resort to the timid Aesopian art of language.

The price of restricted truth about the restricted contingent has now to be paid in full. Alas, this price has sometimes to be paid not by those who suppressed glasnost, but by the "Afghan" servicemen themselves. Is it fair? Is it fair particularly at present when thousands of people, both in this country and abroad, live with the hope that the Geneva talks on the political settlement of this painful regional conflict are nearing completion? And whatever stratagem Washington and Islamabad resort to, our leadership's constructive initiatives inspire confidence.

Soon, we hope very soon, our war-tanned boys will resume their peaceful lives. They have shown their value and their abilities. Without resorting to using comparisons, let alone to contrasting, it is not out of place to say that all classic feats of the Great Patriotic War, well known from the textbooks of history, were repeated on the soil of Afghanistan by soldiers born in the sixties. More than 4,000 of our soldiers were decorated with Red Star Orders last year alone. And all this has happened at a peaceful time, when other people their age were enjoying the pleasures of the world. And this seems to be precisely the root of all our internal "Afghan" problems. Because not with material goods and benefits alone should society reward those who won them in hard and dangerous combat (although even in this apparently obvious respect, things are still a long way from having been fully settled). It is probably much more important to reward our internationalist soldiers with public respect and confidence, to boost their high prestige among young people, and to make full use of the educational potential inherent in this prestige. Moreover, we should take care of them in our day-to-day lives; must not forget to drop a kind word about them on a red-letter day, and must treat them with more consideration, charity, and patience. We should always bear in mind that even many of those who return home physically unscratched are heartbroken. [passage omitted]

Moonshining Forces Local Controls on Sugar

PM081505 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 2

[V. Tolstov article under the rubric "Problems and Opinions": "The Moonshiners Are Not Going To Like it; Necessary Measures To Normalize the Sugar Trade"]

[Text] Do we have a sugar shortage? If not, then why is the editorial office receiving an increasing number of reports from various regions of the country about all manner of restrictions, lines, and even a black market? Our correspondent asked the USSR Ministry of Trade about this.

"The interruptions in the sugar trade," S. Aleshin, deputy minister, said, "are not being caused by a shortage of this product in the country's food stocks but by the sharp increase in the amount of sugar being purchased. At present we sell approximately 31 kilograms of sugar per capita, including diabetics and infants, and, when added to confectionery and other products containing sugar, per capita consumption has risen to more than 47 kilograms this year. No other country in the world consumes so much sugar, particularly developed countries, which are well familiar with the rules of sensible eating. In those countries the reverse is true: Sugar consumption is on the decline. In our country it is increasing."

I must add to what the deputy minister said and tell you that, according to figures provided by the USSR Ministry of Trade, 785,000 tonnes more sugar was sold in 1986 than in 1985. And in 1987 the figure was 645,000 tonnes more than in 1986. You would think that we must be nearing the limit. But in fact, according to figures for the first 2 months of this year, sugar sales are still on the up and up. There has been an increase of 15 percent in Belorussia and Kazakhstan, 17 percent in Lithuania and

Kirghizia, 14 percent in Uzbekistan, and 11 percent in Moldavia. In some RSFSR oblasts sugar sales have increased by 15-29 percent. This trend is particularly noticeable in Kostroma, Kaluga, Kuybyshev, Kurgan, Chita, and Saratov oblasts and in the Tatar ASSR.

All republics and all RSFSR oblasts have their own sugar stocks in volumes which exceed the norms of rational consumption. It is clear from all this that the erratic nature of sugar supplies can only have one explanation—sugar is being bought up in large quantities, and is certainly not destined to be drunk with tea....

This is confirmed by the following fact. In Khabarovsk Kray, where moonshining is not traditionally popular, and in Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, where sugar is also not used in the making of alcohol, there are absolutely no problems with sugar sales.

Of course, neither the Soviet sugar industry nor foreign trade purchases have taken account of the growing appetites of the moonshiners. They are geared to normal consumption. So we are now faced with the question of whether to still further increase sugar sales or take measures to bring consumption back to the normal level....

If we were to take the first course of action, we would have to buy an extra 1.8 million tonnes of sugar on the foreign market. Perfectly well aware of our problems, suppliers of the world market have already raised the normal sugar prices more than fivefold in expectation of colossal profits. This means that the country would be forced to spend approximately 1 billion dollars. And for what? To pay for moonshiners' raw material, it seems. Outlays like these could hardly be considered reasonable.

So what other course of action is left to us? If the stocks allocated for trade can guarantee normal supply on the condition that sugar consumption is rational, then sugar consumption has to be rational. Since April sugar has been sold using coupons or through order desks in those regions where sugar stocks have begun to dwindle very rapidly. This allows every customer to be sure of purchasing 1.5-2 kilograms of sugar per month. People who want to make their own wine will have to choose between home-brewed beer or weak tea.

But what is going to happen in summer, when the time comes to make jam and stewed fruit, when a kilogram of berries needs a kilogram of sugar? Specialists from the USSR Ministry of Trade believe that guaranteed trade on a coupon basis will suppress the wave of excessive demand and allow families to build up a store of their traditional home-made goods by the end of the summer.

The country's sugar stocks are sufficient, but only if used for their proper purpose.

Television Links With Foreign Media Discussed

LD101317 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1800 GMT on 6 April carries the 2-hour program "With Us in Ostankino," a studio discussion on foreign links of Soviet television. Taking questions from a Moscow audience are V.I. Popov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, who acts as moderator, V.V. Lazutkin, chief of the main directorate for foreign relations at the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting; and E.A. Sorokin, chief editor of the recently created International Life Editorial Office at Soviet Central Television. Seated in the audience were political observers Georgiy Zubkov and Dimitriy Biryukov, and telebridge presenter Leonid Zolotarevskiy. The program includes linkups with audiences in Slovakia, and Lvov, U.S. cable TV officials. Occasionally films were inserted into the basic question-and-answer format.

Popov begins by noting that television has carried important events as the 27th CPSU Congress, the Reykjavik summit, the USSR festival in India, and the Washington summit into people's living rooms. He says that the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting has links with 122 countries, of which 90 have reciprocal agreements with the USSR. A total of 180 TV organizations in various countries have business relations with Gosteleradio.

In answer to a question from the Moscow audience on plans for the future, Sorokin replies: "I should like to say first of all why this editorial office was set up. The desirability of setting up this new structural subdivision, the Chief International Life Editorial Office within the central TV framework, was dictated above all by the following circumstance. In the current situation, coverage of the Soviet Union's foreign policy and its peaceful proposals and initiatives, as well as analysis of the situation in the world in general, are extremely important. It is difficult to overestimate the significance in this context of the major programs in the area of analysis, current affairs, and documentary, as well as other areas. They provide an opportunity of revealing in a more in-depth manner the significance of individual Soviet actions on the world stage, of showing the logic and well-founded arguments that underlie them, of considering individual international problems in greater detail and, last, of refuting in a sufficiently convincing manner the objections and arguments of our ideological and political adversaries whenever necessary. All these considerations lay at the basis of the decision to set up the new Chief International Life Editorial Office. Well-known and deservedly popular programs were passed on to us, such as "Studio Nine," "Repercussions," "World Today," "Community," and some others. They were the foundation, so to speak, on which the new building began to be erected. New programs have emerged—

"problem in focus," "political portraits," and some others. Television material from other countries has also begun to be used on a significantly broader basis by us."

Popov comments on the popularity of telebridges, saying "perhaps they are even too popular now; there are a great deal of them." In the last 1 1/2-2 years, he says, air-time has been given "not just to personalities from other countries, but also to our direct opponents." Popov adds: "You will know that Shultz has become almost a regular journalist on our TV. We've had broadcasts by Thatcher, Chirac, and other politicians. Strauss appeared on Soviet television not so long ago when he was in the USSR. This has become a common occurrence, and, however we may view it only a few years ago this sort of thing seemed strange, and their views were commonly paraphrased in our news bulletins. But now we frequently meet even our opponents, so to speak, and our journalists talk with them. This process will continue, and we will no doubt see other ways in which world TV will be impinging on our screens in the fairly near future."

A questioner in the Moscow audience says: "Regrettably our international affairs journalists have sometimes failed to speak out on individual events, so a vacuum was formed, which has been filled by Western radio and TV broadcasts."

In response Sorokin points out that while it is impossible to cover all the events taking place in the world, "the situation is basically changing, and, what is more, it is changing in a fundamental way. There are no prohibited subjects. The only important question is how to treat them, with due regard for the whole range of different hues and shades of meaning."

On the subject of "frequently negative" stereotypes about Western Countries, Sorokin says that for many years the Western media had created an image of enmity in its coverage of the USSR, but "now things are changing, particularly after the U.S. visit Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev." He adds: "That is why we need to create an atmosphere of trust and to build bridges between countries and states. In these circumstances, the erosion of the enemy image is, if you like, one of objective necessity."

Regarding world attention to Soviet Television, Popov notes: "We are not opposed to our television being picked up, but we do not intend to force our way anywhere with our television. This tendency has the following, if you like, juridical explanation: We are in favor of the sovereignty of the TV channels. We do not prevent anyone from receiving our television if they have an accord with us, but we do not intend to foist our television on anyone. Our television is received in the socialist countries, and it is even received in the United States—quite a long way away, one would have thought—and in a whole series of other countries."

A film is shown from Kosice in Slovakia, in which local people were asked which Soviet television programs they liked, telebridges and "Vremya" featured in the answers. In a live hookup from Michalovce in Slovakia, an audience gathered in a local hotel put questions to the Moscow panel. After briefly outlining the history of telebridges, Lazutkin says that Soviet viewers have complained that telebridges repeat the same topics. It is natural that people in different countries should want to ask the same questions about the Soviet Union, he says, and he describes telebridges as "a vivid, interesting, deep, and very promising form of popular diplomacy."

The Moscow and Michalovce audiences discuss the respective merits of Soviet and Czechoslovak news and current affairs coverage. Popov admits: "We do indeed talk at too great a length in our programs sometimes."

The subject of upcoming telebridges is discussed, and a film from Japan on how Asahi television takes Soviet TV via a Gorizont-6 satellite is shown. A studio where a Russian-language course is being filmed for Japanese television is also shown.

In conclusion, the panelists note the need for greater variety, coverage of the Soviet republics alongside national topics, and the need for informing viewers of deals with foreign TV companies.

When Dmitriy Biryukov asserts that not all Western correspondents accept invitations to appear on Soviet television, Lazutkin notes: "Soviet journalists appear on foreign television and radio quite frequently, as frequently as they are approached by TV and radio companies. We never refuse."

The program ends with a compilation of trailers for foreign programs to be shown on Soviet television.

Uzbek Corruption Investigation Described

PM081507 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 14, 3 Apr 88 p 13

[Viktor Loshak article: "Up Against 'The Mafia'"]

[Text] The Uzbek case has been the biggest in Soviet postwar history in terms of the sums stolen and the political, economic and social damage caused by the crime. Telman Gdlyan, senior investigator of major cases under the procurator-general of the USSR, has been investigating this case for five years.

Gdlyan always keeps at hand the "list of deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of the 11th Convocation". He uses it whenever he has to specify some details in the biographies of those whom he has to deal with at a given moment. A couple of years ago, those in Gdlyan's care, if put together, would definitely have been deciding the major questions of Uzbekistan's life. Today the chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers, four secretaries of the Central Committee, two ministers, and six first secretaries of the regional party committees answer questions.

It is customary to believe that a criminal always expects to be put behind bars at any moment. But the Uzbek case has, in many respects, refuted this truism: the very criteria of legality were somehow lost in the republic. The militia, in its face-lifting attempts at maintaining order, often became only an arm in the war between groups. "In the first year we were lucky in that they had not united against us and did not consider us a serious danger", Gdlyan maintains.

Gdlyan was sent on a mission to Uzbekistan in spring 1983, a few months after Leonid Brezhnev's death. As before, the republic was under the command of Sharaf Rashidov. For five years "Rashidovshchina" (loosely: Rashidov's rule, times) was the common term used to designate many things: corruption, bribe taking running into many thousands of roubles, the oppression of millions of people to the encompaniment of noisy reports and loud speeches....

Investigators would inevitably have to reckon with the almighty Rashidov. On learning who had exposed the bribe takers in Bukhara and who had caused the investigator's team to come from Moscow, the former first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan did all he could to remove the leaders of the republic's KGB (State Security Committee) from Uzbkistan, and he succeeded.

Telman Gdlyan and his group found themselves isolated in many respects.

This was, perhaps, a crucial moment. Many in that situation would have preferred the case of bribe taking in Bukhara, though a loud one, involving the regional militia and trade managers, to remain a local affair, regarded as the result of "separate shortcomings." It is hard to imagine how many millions the ringleaders of the Uzbek mafia would have paid this investigator, on a modest salary of 365 roubles, if only he would "lash out at the leaves without toching the roots".

Further investigations promised no joy—just a long search for the truth and five years of work without leave (in Moscow his wife, son and daughter were waiting for him). It must be said that during all the 47 years of his life Gdlyan had never been considered either docile or pliant. Wasn't it due to these qualities that he remained in the lowest procurator's rank—that of a junior jurist—three times the usual duration?

...And they carried on the investigation. Abduvakhit Karimov, First Secretary of the Bukhara Regional Party Committee, whom Rashdov once called the "golden fund of Uzbekistan", turned out to be "golden" in the literal sense of the word. Now three photo albums are being kept at the Procurator's Office: The pictures shows heaps of gold tsarist chervonetzes (ten-rouble coins), watches, jewelry, trunks filled with money from the Karimov "fund". One photograph, incidentally, makes it clear how Gdlyan takes all this wealth: he stands aside from a box of treasures and looks weary and with disgust.

It seemed convenient to put a fullstop on Karimov, but not even half the truth had been revealed. Gold busts, gold-embroidered portraits, gowns decorated with astrakhan and embroidered in gold were made in Bukhara for Brezhnev and Rashidov.... In the court, which sentenced Karimov to be shot by firing squad, it was stated that 300,000 roubles had flown from Bukhara only to the First Secretary of the Uzbekistan CP Central Committee. Karimov also managed to pass over dozens of thousands to Usmankodzhayev who replaced Rashidov.

Why? There is but one answer to this question: for everything. There was an earthquake in Gazli and after some time Yu. Churbanov, First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR, came to check on how its aftermath was being cleared up. "There are no cigarettes in the shops!" he gave Karimov a good scolding right in the street. The latter drew certain conclusions from this and, that same evening, at someone's dacha (country cottage), turned over 10,000 roubles to Churbanov in exchange for the gracious promise "not to report the shortcomings at the top."

Gdlyan understood: the interests of the investigation demanded that piles of information be collected. Hundreds upon hundreds of times before publication, in May 1986, of the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers "On the Repeal of the Resolution on Perpetuating the Memory of Sh.R. Rashidov" he drove across Tashkent, past the Rashidov memorial, clearly aware of whose grave Young Pioneers and foreign tourists were being taken to.

Perhaps it was here that it became particularly obvious what other things were still to be combatted. At this grave Rashidov's successor Usmankhodzhayev pledged: the republic would fulfil the deceased's behest—give six million tons of cotton! And give it did...Usmankhodzhayev summoned the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and ordered him to add to what had been collected another 240,000 tons of raw cotton. All in all, that year, nearly a million tons were added in an upward distortion of results achieved. A quarter of a billion roubles out of the money received for this was embezzled.

After his five years in Uzbekistan, Gdlyan now and again uses Uzbek words in conversation: "opa"—"wife", "aka"—"esteemed", "tukhmat"—"slander", and again "Rashidovshchina", which means to him also an extreme degree of cynicism. Well, for instance, you pin the Gold Star Medal of Hero of Socialist Labour on a person to the thunder of applause, but you whisper into his ear "This is not given gratis", which everyone takes to mean: "bring money in return".

An offensive against perimeter defence—this is, perhaps, how one can qualify the work of Gdlyan's investigating team during the first four years. They heard about "fascism", and about "repressive measures", and about a secret assignment "to disgrace the republic".... And they worked, lived like monks, resorted to ruses, now flying from region to region in a military helicopter, now buying tickets in someone else's name. They had to be ahead of the enemy by at least one day, one move, one step. The investigating team, which numbered by that time more than a hundred people from all over the country, counted the confiscated property in dozens of millions, but borrowed roubles from one another: even for investigators the travelling allowance is 2.6 roubles a day.

They worked. Evidence, photographs and voluntary acknowledgements of guilt added up to a picture, previously hidden from the public eye, involving hundreds upon hundreds of people—in effect, a whole stratum of people who ruled in Uzbekistan. This picture shocked even the investigators: these people held nothing sacred. They sold government awards, dachas, party membership cards, seats on presidiums and places in cemeteries, official posts and deputy mandates. The most horrible consequence was that people developed the mentality of pawns. Hundreds of thousands of people knew everything—and kept silent. In one of the kishlaks (Central Asian villages), to which they flew to confiscate what had been stolen from the people, Gdlyan was amazed: collective farm wages had not been paid for half a year—and there was not a single complaint.

The work of Telman Gdlyan's investigating team could be used as training aid at law faculties. It would be good if they included in it a short story, as told by the investigator, about how they flew to a distant kishlak to the well-known potter Kulol-Bobo who, as was known, became one of the docile "keepers" of the treasures of a highly-placed official.

"No," he said, "I have nothing, don't even search." Then I took his hand in mine. "Look what kind of hands you have, usto (master). Such hands are priceless! As for me," I said, "if they sack me, it will be difficult to find a job, but everyone needs you with your hands of gold. Why do you disgrace them; why do you hide what has been stolen from the people?" He took me to an old mulberry tree in the field. What for, I thought? But Kulol-Bobo, it turned out, had buried a box containing 3,000 gold coins with asbestos and hid it in the bottom of an irrigation ditch.... "Dig," he pointed, "here!"

We exchanged glances, the hidden meaning of long compliment-strewn conversations over cups of tea, an exchange of courtesies with a person on whom, you are sure, you will put handcuffs in a week's time.... This investigatory work seemed to be more akin to diplomacy. Even the smallest detail could not be neglected.

It was decided to bring a charge against Ruzmet Gaipov, First Secretary of the Khorezm regional party committee, the biggest bribe taker, at the Procurator's Office. His mansion was encircled. Gdlyan and his colleagues went in to ask Gaipov to come with them. They were asked to take seats and offered tea. "At Ruzmet Gaipovich's former work-place he was called 'Lenin of Kashkadarya'...." Gaipov's wife said, as the host brought in his jacket covered in government awards. Then he returned to the wardrobe, and suddenly there was a cry. When Telman Gdlyan rushed into the bedroom, Gaipov had already managed to inflict 13 knife wounds on himself....

It is not customary to judge the success of justice in terms of roubles, but, though having returned only a fraction of what had been plundered by the bais (rich land owners in Central Asia), Gdlyan's team worked all these five years at a profit rate of an enterprise that knows how to do things. However, there are bribes which no investigator can confiscate. Bribes in fame and spiritual values. Rashidov was made into a great writer, then arrested for bribes Tashkent militia head Sattarov—a journalist.... Portraits, busts, giant mural paintings on walls—thirst for money fermented into a craving for fame. And now, in the defendant's last word, after the court had witnessed the horrible picture of personal degradation, the former first secretary of the Bukhara regional party committee addressed the judges: "I beg you to take account of my personal contribution to the development of agriculture."

Over the five years of investigations more light was shed on this noiseless mess behind the heavy curtains of republican power. Now, the stage is becoming increasingly illuminated and the once majestic hero-leaders are getting smaller and smaller as the ray of truth spans further. It has already caught in its light the former minister of internal affairs of the USSR N. Shchelokov, and his First Deputy, Yu. Churbanov, arrested in the Uzbek case.

This light of truth owes its existence to the fact that the former corruption-ridden leaders of Uzbekistan encountered, in the person of Gdlyan and his aides, not yesterday's civil servants from justice departments, but people who, psychologically, have stepped across the executive barrier, to become creatively emancipated. Said Nikloay Ivanov, Gdlyan's deputy in the investigating team, investigator of major cases under the procurator-general of the USSR, "We are not like those people who used to enter the chief's room with their own opinion and leave it with the latter's opinion. Those who honestly stand up for the law must have a stand of their own."

'Cologne Club' Dissidents Issue Second Document

PM121522 Paris LE FIGARO in French
7 Apr 88 p 39

[Bernard Bonilauri report: "Soviet Dissidents' Cologne Appeal"]

[Text] In March 1987, Soviet dissidents, and especially the members of the International Resistance organization, published in LE FIGARO a document criticizing Gorbachevism. "Let Gorbachev Give Us Proof": Under this headline Bukovskiy, Plyushch, Maksimov, Zinovyev, Lyubimov, Orlov, Aksenov, and Neizversty [last name as published] analyzed the implications and limitations of glasnost. The publication of our ideas in the Soviet press, the authors stressed, would be the best proof of the sincerity of official statements about openness....

The weekly MOSCOW NEWS, with a print run of 250,000, decided to reproduce the document in full. A commentator in PRAVDA (of which 11 million copies are published) challenged LE FIGARO and the document's signatories: "These gentlemen signed, without even reading it, a manifesto which all the evidence suggests was drawn up by the Western special services...." It was a victory for the dissidents: Moscow had been forced to respond.

On 25 March this year, recent Soviet emigres and Soviet dissidents met in Germany, where they formed the Cologne Club—a group of observers and analysts with two aims: to study the USSR's domestic problems and to establish a dialogue with independent opinion in the Soviet Union and even with certain representatives of central government.

The club was created thanks to financial support from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation: Nowhere else in Europe did the dissidents find the necessary material assistance. The founders of the Cologne Club have drafted another document, which we publish exclusively, reflecting the viewpoint of those who see themselves as neither "the associates nor the rivals of the Soviet authorities in the transformation of communist society" and who say: "We cannot permit ourselves to stand aloof from what is going on." [Bonilauri ends]

As representatives of various opposition circles forced to reside outside the USSR's borders, we consider it both our right and our duty to participate in the events currently taking place in the Soviet Union. The present time is probably the most crucial in the country's history since the 1917 revolution. We are also anxious to have our say in the debate on the nature of Gorbachevian restructuring. This document is not intended as a program, but it can serve as material for discussion both within the country and abroad.

What the USSR is experiencing is no longer new "short-term difficulties", but an all-embracing crisis of the structures and functioning of society, the economy, the government, ideology, and culture. We do not believe that the origins of this crisis should be sought in the errors committed by members of the administration. The situation that has become established is the logical outcome of the action of mechanisms inherent to the system—state ownership of the means of production, the monopoly on ideology, totalitarian government. This crisis into which communist society has plunged—the most profound in its history—is specific to it. It will certainly not be the last. From now on these crises will inevitably continue to shake the society of "real communism" until it disappears from history forever.

We welcome all changes resulting in a real improvement of the living conditions of the broadest sectors of the population. A critical approach to the feverish reformism that has taken hold of the Gorbachev leadership leads us to form assessments that differ from those of Soviet—and, to a large extent, foreign—political circles, as reflected in the media. We believe that restructuring is not an attempt to resolve the crisis but basically a symptom of the panic that has gripped leaders, faced with this crisis. The Gorbachev leadership does not venture to invoke "pure" communist methods to overcome the country's difficulties: It has embarked on haphazard attempts to find "Western-style" solutions entirely alien to it. The illusion has thus been created of Soviet society's democratic evolution, thanks to the government's efforts.

We are convinced that the Gorbachevian reforms are unable to resolve the difficulties that the country is encountering. They merely divert society's attention from the need to find its own solutions to the real problems facing it.

The euphoria created by glasnost, the demagoguery flourishing around "the struggle against the Stalinist legacy", and individual initiative (in services and small-scale production) cannot remedy the ills that have long tormented Soviet society: Their only effect is to mask the symptoms of this disease and to exacerbate it. It is one thing to decree reforms but quite another to implement them within the context of a communist system. Thus the desire proclaimed in official speeches and documents to close down enterprises running at a loss and to improve productivity could appear to reflect the best of intentions. In fact it is in danger of causing hardship for millions of people threatened by obligatory relocation in regions where the masses who constituted "the enemies of the people" were exiled under Stalin. Irrespective of the authorities' wishes and intentions, restructuring, glasnost, and democratization are, under closer scrutiny, a reflection of the inexorable tendency of the Soviet system to return to a Stalinist-type totalitarian practice.

We are sure, however, that this evolution is not inevitable. We envisage other paths that the country can take to change itself from a totalitarian and militaristic empire with global designs into a democratic society based on law consistent with the finest principles of world civilization. The Soviet Union does not need the innumerable reforms and minor reforms conducted in an ambiguous manner: They become bogged down by the social and political inertia of a population who no longer believe in anything and by the complexities of the bureaucratic apparatus. It is necessary to make a number of major decisions whose real consequences will permit genuine revolutionary transformations.

For this evolution to be possible it is essential to satisfy a number of preconditions. With his reforms, Gorbachev is merely building on sand. We do not intend to provide an exhaustive list of these preconditions. Here are some that we consider fundamental.

Citizens must cease to be persecuted for what is generally termed "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda and slandering the political and social system" or for their religious beliefs: This is one of the basic preconditions for the reforms' success. Criticisms of society, the government, and the ruling ideology must become as normal a part of social awareness as praise of the government. Modern society cannot function and develop without a critical awareness. Hitherto the Gorbachev leadership has taken only a few timid steps in this direction, mainly with the aim of making a good impression abroad.

Another precondition is that citizens must be given the right to express their opinions about what is happening not only in words but in deeds—demonstrations, strikes, the creation of independent organizations. History shows that genuine liberation is never a gift from the government but the gain of a long and harsh struggle. The desire to avert such a struggle inevitably forces society into stagnation and ultimately disintegration. The aim of action as we envisage it is to force the leadership to make changes guided by the interests of the broadest sectors of the population, not by those of the privileged ruling circles.

We have a fundamentally different attitude from that of the current leaders with regard to the correlation between the current reforms and the population's living standards. The Gorbachev leadership is postponing an improvement of the country's living conditions indefinitely. We consider such an improvement an indispensable precondition for the success of reforms that are in any way serious. The population would become involved in them. It is a long time since the inhabitants of the USSR believed in the big promises made to them by their leaders. Long and painful experience has shown them that the sacrifices that they endure serve only to consolidate the totalitarian government and to satisfy the appetites of a privileged minority.

Even without reforms, Soviet society is already in a position to improve the population's living standards considerably. A radical reduction of military spending would suffice, as would a reduction of the repressive apparatus. It would also be enough to cut off subsidies to the artificial Marxist regimes that the USSR maintains in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The latter measure would have enabled Soviet leaders to avoid the currently projected increase in prices. Any change for the better is inconceivable as long as the USSR remains a militaristic empire aiming to expand at any cost. The policy that we are witnessing is, from this viewpoint, merely a tactical stratagem within the framework of an unchangeable Soviet strategy of world domination.

The Soviet leadership is striving to raise the country to the economic level attained by the Western countries: Its efforts are doomed to failure inasmuch as millions of Soviets will not have access to the finest achievements of world civilization. It is essential to end the country's artificial isolation from the world democratic community once and for all. The USSR must abandon military and ideological expansion in its relations with the outside world and take the path of an exchange of ideas and information that can only facilitate a positive comprehensive development of society. If the USSR continues to isolate itself, it will be no more able to catch up with the West than a hobbled runner can catch up with a professional athlete. Now, 40 years after a victorious war, the USSR cannot even allow itself to dream of attaining the living standards enjoyed in Germany—the country that it vanquished! Unfortunately the principal role in the USSR's relations with the outside world is still entrusted to the spy or agitator. This role should be allocated to the creators of material and spiritual assets.

Genuine national independence for the many peoples that make up the USSR is one of the indispensable preconditions for the success of the social transformations. The right to self-determination, including withdrawal from the Union, as envisaged by the Soviet Constitution, must be realized within a real process of the empire's transformation into a voluntary community of independent states. Members must be guaranteed the right to withdraw from this community. The empire in its present form has long been an anachronism and curbs the country's economic and cultural development. The Soviet Union has become the empire of welfare: This can only exhaust the population's material and spiritual potential. The experience of recent national movements (Kazakhstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Baltic and Tartar countries of Crimea, the Ukranians' and Belorussians' struggle for the recognition of their respective languages, and so forth) show convincingly that the ethnic problems that have emerged during the Soviet period cannot be resolved satisfactorily within the framework of the present empire.

Among other things, Gorbachev's restructuring has caused disarray and dissensions among Soviet citizens, who are critical of the regime. This also applies to emigre circles and to those in the West interested in various capacities in Soviet affairs. We believe that it is our duty to define our stance clearly in this connection. We are neither the associates nor the rivals of the Soviet authorities in the transformation of society. We analyze and assess the Soviet authorities' decisions from the viewpoint of the consequences that they could entail for the country's population and the entire world.

Our aim is to form a comprehensive and critical understanding of the Soviet system. We do not claim to be the repositories of the sole correct doctrine. We envisage the most varied approaches to permit the attainment of an objective knowledge of society. This result can only be achieved through the interaction and struggle of ideas.

We consider ourselves entitled to spread our ideas in the USSR and the West and to stimulate the activity of the most varied social and political sectors of the population. Only the efforts of all those who aspire to renewal can result in the formulation of a detailed and realistic program of truly revolutionary changes.

What we are doing will not result in immediate and major changes in the USSR: We are fully aware of this. However, we cannot allow ourselves to remain aloof from what is happening. We are motivated by the desire to do all we can and do not expect any praise for it. We do not feel alone in this endeavor. As representatives of the social opposition, we are in favor of all other forms of opposition, whether political, religious, ethnic, or cultural. Our one and only objective is to create a democratic and prosperous society in the USSR.

In conclusion:

Freedom of speech, not "openness!"

Rebuilding, not "restructuring!"

A natural development proper to a major free country, not "acceleration!"

Cologne, 25 March 1988.

Signed: Abdur-Akhman Avtorkhanov, historian; Vladimir Bukovskiy, writer and biologist; Nataliya Gorbanevskaya, poet; Aleksandr Ginzburg, writer; Sergey Khorodovich, former head of the Solzhenitsyn political prisoners' aid fund; Anatoliy Koryagin, psychiatrist; Eduard Kuznetsov, writer; Anatoliy Krasnov-Levitin, religious writer; Eduard Lozanskiy, physicist; Vladimir Maksimov, writer; Leonid Plyushch, writer and mathematician; Vitaliy Rapoport, historian; Georgiy Vladimov, writer; Mikhail Voslenskiy, Sovietologist; Yuriy Yarim-Agayev, physicist; and Aleksandr Zinovyev, writer.

TASS, Journalists Union Magazine Available
LD080432 Moscow TASS in English 1649 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—A new weekly magazine, whose first issue hit newsstands this week, is the joint publication of the Soviet news agency TASS and the Union of Journalists of the USSR, but its stories should not be seen as expressing the official view, with which TASS is often associated, the magazine's editor-in-chief told Soviet and foreign correspondents here today.

Nikolay Setunsky was speaking at a briefing at the Foreign Ministry's press center.

He said the magazine, "ECHO OF THE PLANET", will emphasize news and diversity in terms of both topics and ways of presenting them.

This will be done with the help of TASS correspondents posted to 125 countries. Their dispatches, news reports, travel notes, feature stories, essays and analyses will help readers get a better idea of what is happening on the world scene.

The magazine, its editor-in-chief said, is currently meant mostly for the Soviet readership and is published only in Russian.

"We seek to make it so that every member of a family will find something interesting for himself or herself to read in it."

"ECHO OF THE PLANET" has the initial print run of 200,000 copies.

"It is financially self-supported and so only becoming popular with the readers can keep us going," Setunskiy said.

Economic

Dolgikh Attends Resource Economizing Conference
LD092131 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] A conference on issues of economizing on resources and making rational use of ferrous and nonferrous metals in the national economy was held in Moscow today. It was attended by heads of ministries and departments, by officials from party, local soviet and trade union bodies and from enterprises and organizations, and by leading scientists and specialists. Comrade Dolgikh spoke at the conference.

Program Views Perestroyka's 'Ambitious Changes'

LD121619 London BBC Television Network in English 1730 GMT 10 Apr 88

[From BBC 2's "The Money Programme," presented by Brian Widlake and Valerie Singleton—all passages in Russian and Estonian have superimposed English translation]

[Excerpt] [Widlake] Good evening. In the Money Programme this Sunday, the first of three major reports from the Soviet Union. Tonight we'll be examining the ambitious changes at the heart of the Soviet economy that the planners hope will rid the country of the curse of chronic shortages, inefficiency, and overmanning. We'll be talking to bosses and workers about what the changes mean to them. And in later programs we'll be looking at how the Russians are exploiting their current lead in space, by persuading the West to launch satellites on Russian rockets—deals which could be worth millions of precious dollars to the USSR but which are being blocked by United States objections to allowing high-tech satellites into the Soviet Union. And the only Indian restaurant in Moscow will feature in a report about another way the Soviets are pulling in foreign currency and expertise from joint ventures with companies in capitalist countries. Britain is inolved in this project to publish hundreds of rare Soviet books and prints, but many other British companies remain cautious.

[Singleton] And back home, tonight we'll be examining Friday's surprisingly uncautious cut in interests rates. Does it mean more consumer spending and the end of the fight for zero inflation?

[Widlake] The Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, has no doubt about the importance of his program of perestroyka and the crucial restructuring of the moribund Soviet economy and its bureaucracy. In a key speech to the 27th Congress of the Communist Party he said: "We must have revolutionary change.... There is no other way." Perestroyka and the companion concept, glasnost, or openness, have become the catchwords of the Gorbachev regime, a rallying cry to the Soviet people. The main objectives of perestroyka are giving businesses control over their affairs by allowing them to be self-financing, reforming banking and prices to sweep away subsidies, and the legalization of cooperatives to encourage groups of individuals to start running their own businesses for profit. These measures have been introduced first in a handful of locations across the Soviet Union. "The Money Programme" has visited the site of one such experiment. Tallinn is the capital of the Baltic state of Estonia. It's a town about the size of Sheffield. Francine Stock has been hearing about these early experiments in perestroyka from the people of Tallinn, and about the future from economists and politicians in Moscow.

[Begin video recording] [Stock, over shots of cafe scene] Saturday night down at the cooperative cafe. It's a place where the people of Tallinn, the guinea pigs of perestroyka, can relax. This cafe has only been open 2 months. A year ago, running an enterprise like this would have been illegal. When you strip away the ideology, perestroyka has brought hundreds of practical changes into the lives of Tallinn people in the last year. The boss of the clothing factory now has control of its finances, but she still can't set the prices for her goods. Perestroyka means a new job for the man in charge of quality control, but it's lost him friends on the shop floor. The manager of the cooperative garage has seen his workforce grow—from 6 to 300 in 12 months. The bank manager is flooded with requests for credit. And for the couple who run this cafe perestroyka has opened up new ambitions. As much as for the party bosses, perestroyka is their problem—and their hope.

[Academician Abel Aganbegyan speaking in Russian] It's a very complicated process and the power of inertia is enormous, and to overcome yourself, to learn to think in a new way—this process is complex and can't be learned only theoretically. It can be learned only in practice and then through step-by-step changes of life and yourself.

[Stock] Aganbegyan is credited as the architect of the economics of perestroyka. It's an attempt to streamline the Soviet economy and return to Lenin's original precepts of industrialization. Economic reforms are not new in the Soviet Union. In the early sixties Khrushchev and then Kosygin tried to take power from the center and give it to individual factories to stimulate enterprise, but with little lasting effect. Throughout the seventies industry stagnated. There was no service sector to speak of. Despite massive output there were shortages of essential goods. A decade later it was clear the economy was locked, at a standstill. The political pressure built up for urgent reform, something radical.

[Professor Nikolay Shmelev, economist at "the Arbatov Institute" in Moscow, speaking in English] We should to be successful. We have no other choice before us. We have tried in our life, in our history, everything. It's the only way we have not tried—yet.

[Stock] The challenge is monumental. The Soviet Union occupies one-sixth of the world's land, but it can't feed itself. It's trapped in a web of mismanagement and waste. An outdated and inadequate system of trains and roads leaves vegetables rotting in the fields, new cars rusting in station yards, while the queues grow longer. The Soviets can mass-produce space rockets, but not enough shoes. They produce more potatoes than any other nation, but you can't find them in the shops; five times as many tractors as the United States, but not the attachments a farmer would need. One-fifth of the world's industrial production emanates from here, yet the Soviet Union can't fulfill half of its own growth targets. That's why it must have reform. [video of Tallinn]

The early experiments in perestroyka are located either in a town like Tallinn on the Baltic coast or in large cities like Moscow or Leningrad. Introducing self-financing and some degree of market competition, goes the thinking, will be easier in places where attitudes are more progressive. Nobody could pretend that Tallinn is your average Soviet city. For a start, capitalist Finland is just 80 kilometers away across the sea, and so far this century Estonia has been occupied by the Germans, it's been independent—a parliamentary republic and then a dictatorship—before joining the Soviet Union in 1940. Tallinn has a tradition of strong ties with the West and the people have an independent and entrepreneurial spirit. So, if perestroyka can't work here, it has little chance of working anywhere. And even if it does succeed in this town, there's no guarantee that the Tallinn experience will be repeated elsewhere across the Soviet Union. [video of Tallin shops]

But for all the fairy-tale vistas of its old town, much of Tallinn is as gray and monotonous as any Soviet city. As elsewhere across the union, lives here are tyrannized by a vacuum—shortages. Leisure time is spent trudging past scant displays in bleak shops, not buying, just scouting for what might be available. In the Soviet economy, the power over supply and quality lies with the producer. The great reform of perestroyka, say its proponents, is to give these consumers real clout in the production equation.

[Aganbegyan speaking in Russian] At the moment, the administrative apparatus dictates to the consumer; that's the reason for the shortages. And an economy with shortages is not efficient. An efficient economy under socialism aims to serve all the demands of the consumer. There's a need for an economy which responds to consumer demand. Now we are transferring to a different system which would have no shortages.

[Stock] And that's what perestroyka is all about—transferring responsibility from the center to individual and enterprise alike. In theory the consumer can influence the quality and supply of goods. In theory the enterprise is freer to manage its production and budget and to respond to the consumer's demands.

A manufacturer that is already responsive to consumers—Marat, Tallinn's leading clothing factory—is moving to self-financing. Until now factories have been passive cogs in the production cycle. The state supplies the raw materials; the factory makes up its production quota according to the plan. The state takes away the result—no responsibility, little incentive. When it becomes self-financing, however, a factory takes control of its own budget. It can make savings and channel profits into new investment. Marat's deputy director, Elli Ruuben, hopes the new state enterprise legislation will allow her to find the money for an automated cutting machine. New equipment is the obsession of all Soviet factory managers. She can achieve that victory with her newfound freedom to push figures around, but perestroyka hasn't yet removed many old frustrations. Elli Ruuben still has no control over supplies to her factory.

[Ruuben speaking in Estonian] The real problem with fulfilling the plan is the shortage of raw materials, especially wool, and not the organization of the production in the factory. We would also prefer a better quality of yarn. That and the shortages are the biggest problems for us. Technologically, production is high, but it suffers from the poor quality of raw materials.

[Stock, over video of clothing factory] The Marat factory risks falling victim to its own success. Even before perestroyka it was a showpiece enterprise, its goods high quality by Soviet standards. Whatever they produce they can sell. Output has improved since the reforms, but therein lies a danger. Despite its nominal independence, Marat still has to conform to targets set by the state. It must exceed the previous year's level, or be accounted a failure. Elli Ruuben feels she's been left to stand on her own—with her hands tied behind her back.

[Ruuben speaking in Estonian] It is difficult because we have to fight. Don't imagine there's a hothouse somewhere just waiting for us to use it. We have to fight to achieve anything. On the surface everyone seems to support the changes, but when you start making innovations it's extremely hard. It's easy to see the mistakes of government or large institutions. What is hard is to make it clear to individuals that change has to start from within themselves and that they just have to start working harder.

[Stock, over video of light industry factory] But down the road from Marat is a factory where consumers aren't lining up for the product. The struggle to reform is harder still here. The great obstacle is poor quality. There are many ways in which Soviet industry is constrained by the rigidities of the old-style state system. Factories such as this one, Talleks, which makes excavators, have monthly output quotas set for them by the state. But they have no control over their supplies, which are also provided by the state. And the complaint frequently is that those raw materials don't arrive until the third week in the month and that gives rise to a practice known as "storming." The factory works flat out, cutting corners and hammering in screws to turn out in a few days an entire month's production. Inevitably, there is some sacrifice to be made and the sacrifice is usually the loss of quality of the product.

In January last year the Talleks factory began a program of quality control—"gospriyemka" in perestroyka-speak. It's changed this man's loyalties. He used to be employed on the assembly line by the factory. Now he works for the state, checking the finished vehicle against the blueprint. It doesn't make him popular with the people he once worked beside. When he finds a fault it jeopardizes their production bonus.

[Ants Nikoljev, Talleks quality control inspector, speaking in Estonian] My role is to receive ready-made excavators and to check the details released from the metal constructions assembly shop. Gospriyemka has been working for only a year. Before, the machines went out from the factory straight from the production line. Now we test drive them and the quality has improved considerably.

[Unidentified Talleks worker speaking in Russian] The changes made since gospriyemka was introduced haven't been substantial, but the standards have risen, and so the rhythm of work's been lost. Before, we used to fulfill a greater part of the plan earlier in the month than we can now. It takes more time to do the job than it used to.

[Stock] On the factory floor they've yet to be convinced of the value of gospriyemka. At best they have to work harder to turn out the same number of vehicles. At worst, attempts to improve standards are thwarted by lousy technology in the factory. And even if everyone embraces the concept, quality control is only as good as the blueprint they work from. Often it's the design that's obsolete.

[Jaan Luugus, Talleks foreign trade manager, speaking in English] Gospriyemka, quality control, helps to prove the quality of our excavators, but the quality of our excavators depends from design of our excavators and from the quality of equipment. And in this field, gospriyemka, quality control, doesn't help.

[Stock, over video of Talleks factory] Unlike Elli Ruuben, Mr Luugus has as yet little control over his factory finances. If he did, he'd replace this 10-year-old Soviet-made robot, which doesn't work, with a new foreign-made one. But as it stands, any profit Talleks makes may be taken away and given to another state enterprise, and that rankles.

[Luugus speaking in English] Quite a big part of our profit is taken away by the state and is given to another factories [as heard]. And I think it is right to give most of the profit to this factory who earns this profits [as heard].

[Stock] Managers resent the state—it drains their resources. Too often industry's vital juices are sapped by the central planning system.

In the Soviet Union, however things may fall apart, the center always holds. The central planning body, Gosplan, has been described as the most destructive force in the Soviet economy. Its chief was recently dismissed by Gorbachev for his obstructiveness. There lies within Gosplan actual resistance to perestroyka. The demands and constraints of Gosplan frustrate reform at local level. [Shmelev speaking in Russian] A major obstacle, which is very serious but only sometimes apparent, is the powerful bloc of opposition in certain layers of the bureaucracy which stand to lose out through perestroyka. These people have their own privileges, which they—understandably—don't wish to give up. If there's a new law for enlivening our economy they start to crawl around it very, very quietly. They include some people at the ministry who do not wish the prerogatives they have built up for themselves over the past 60 years to slip out of their hands.

[Aganbegyan speaking in Russian] I compare perestroyka with attempting to learn to swim. Learning to swim means entering a new environment. A learner needs to feel the water will hold him up, and even if no one interferes, it's still difficult, because he couldn't do it before. Perestroyka is a more complicated process. Just imagine: not only is it difficult to swim, but there are people obstructing you—someone holds your arm, someone else your hand, a third person pushes your head under the water. If that happened, you'd soon lose interest in swimming.

[Stock, over video of collective workshops] The Iris cooperative is keeping its head above water by operating outside the state system, relatively free of bureaucracy, thanks to the new authorization of cooperatives. They've been illegal outside a few areas like agriculture since the fifties. Now under perestroyka they are positively encouraged, particularly in the sickly service sector. In a year, 300 people have joined Iris. In the time left over from their state jobs, they do building work, repair cars, and make exhausts for Ladas. In a month, each worker can boost his official 200 ruble salary by up to 500 rubles if he puts in enough extra hours here. Legalizing cooperatives effectively drags work and money out of the black economy. It also gives the coop members responsibility—another key tenet of perestroyka.

[Vladimir Dorving, Iris cooperative manager, speaking in Estonian] We all used to work in the state car service and we were sick of getting exact instructions about every step we took and every word we spoke, what we should do and how we should do it. So we started to think of setting up something ourselves, of taking the initiative.

[Robert Ehrlach, Iris cooperative worker, speaking in Estonian] It's interesting because the whole work process from beginning to end is in our own hands. We organize it all and no one tells us what to do or how to do it. We think for ourselves, do it for ourselves, and come up with the finished product. That's how we work.

[Stock, over video of cooperative management meeting] A sauna is the incongruous setting for the first birthday of the Iris coop. There's time for self-congratulation among the governing council. It's been a very successful year. They now turn over 200,000 rubles a month [figure as heard]. But they have also to make serious decisions about the future. Their new responsibility gives them the freedom to get things wrong, even to go bankrupt, and this makes people brought up in the state system nervous. Far fewer have come forward to set up coops than the authorities had hoped. It also brings the freedom to sack people, in a nation where unemployment does not officially exist.

[Dorving speaking in Estonian] People have to work well. And if they don't work properly, then we have to dismiss them. It's easier for us than for a state enterprise, because the members of the cooperative come on a voluntary basis, and if they don't reach the necessary standard, we tell them we're not satisfied. To do otherwise would be to let ourselves and our customers down.

[Shmelev speaking in Russian] A large reduction in the labor force is taking place and in industry they are afraid that under conditions of self-financing many industries will find themselves bankrupt. That can't fail to affect the work force employed at these plants. Naturally, some people are very worried.

[Stock, over video of factory workers] There's a not entirely flippant definition of the Soviet social contract: They pretend to pay us, it goes, and we pretend to work. Overmanning is endemic in the state system. On average the Soviet worker is three times less productive than a counterpart in the United States. One of the ambitions of perestoyka is to shake up the labor market.

[Shmelev speaking in English] We have a real but hidden surplus of labor force in existence with us. Something like 20 percent of our labor force in our existing industries are really surplus. We need not.... We don't need them. But they're hidden. It's because of, so to say, too much of social guarantees in our country and too much of doing bad job.

[Aganbegyan speaking in Russian] We need to redistribute a lot of people into the service sector, and all this reorganization allows us to avoid unemployment. We regard the lack of unemployment as a serious social gain and we'll try to retain it. But with the expected rise in labor productivity and structural changes, an extensive loss of jobs can be expected. It is a serious problem to find jobs for people who have to leave their previous work.

[Stock, over video of Iris cooperative] With its car repairs and Lada exhausts, the Iris cooperative is cashing in on the demand for services. In Tallinn, Iris has no competition.

[Ehrlach speaking in Estonian] Car owners are always in trouble with spare parts and they can't get them anywhere, because the state system just doesn't even make certain spare parts for repairs. But here we make our own spare parts. [video of Iris cooperative auto parts shop] And because cooperatives can set their own prices, they charge what they like. The Iris cooperative manages to sell up to 50 exhausts a day in this auto parts shop. The price is 38 rubles—that's more than double the 15 rubles for a similar exhaust from a state factory. But the state-produced exhausts are very scarce and their quality is at best variable.

[Stock, over video of Marat clothing factory] The sewing machines of the Marat factory also turn out a quality product. The difference is that despite the move to self-financing, Elli Ruuben still has little power to set the price for the finished garment.

[Elli Ruuben speaking in Estonian] Pricing is a big problem and a major obstacle. We believe that the enterprise itself has to fight for a change. No one will change it from above. We hope that the time will come when the people who decide about prices, et cetera, will take responsibility for the decision; as we decide what to produce, we should be able to take responsibility for the price.

[Stock, over video of foodstores] Price reform is the single most difficult challenge for perestroyka. At present, prices are set by the state and are constant. Subsidies run at R73 billion a year. Food is heavily subsidized and if bread is cheaper than grain, it's fed to the cows.

If any of the experiments in self-financing are to succeed, then prices must start to bear some relationship to costs and to consumer demand. The entire pricing system is scheduled for reform by 1990, bringing changes to wholesale and retail selling, and abandoning subsidies.

[Valentin Pavlov, State Committee on Prices chairman, speaking in Russian] We can't introduce the new prices all at once. That's why we'll introduce them in stages. But we can't expect economic restructuring without price changes. We're starting with industry as the basis for the national economy. It's the most advanced sector of the economy involved in self-management. We want to do this before the start of the next 5-year plan, so that the enterprises can take into account the new prices when working out their next targets.

[Stock, over video of outdoor market] Prices on Tallinn's open market are four times higher than in the state shops. That's an indication of the rises price reform will bring. Increases will be unpopular, bringing hardship for individuals and bankruptcy or some enterprises—another example of perestroyka making things worse before they get better, and a serious test for the Gorbachev regime.

[Pavlov speaking in Russian] Politically, it's not an easy step, because there's a widespread opinion that the price reform will benefit everybody and bring additional income. This is a serious delusion, so it's important to explain to people that it won't benefit everybody. Those enterprises lagging behind others might lose the income they have now. When the starting point for prices is consumer demand, there'll be a loss of income for many businesses.

[Stock, over video of watchmakers' shop] The people best placed to benefit from the early stirrings of perestroyka are the self-employed, like these two watchmakers. Since the law authorizing self-employment came into force last May, 200,000 permits have been granted, although even in enterprising Tallinn only a handful of self-employed people can be found. These two can decide how much they'll work—though they can't employ anyone else, under Soviet law—and the price they can charge.

[Watchmaker Tonn Tannav speaking in Estonian] Before we had to follow the price list to the exact kopeck. Now pricing is much freer. Easy work is cheap, but we charge more for a complicated job. Previously, all the work cost the same amount. [video of watchmakers shop] But even in this tiny workshop the watchmakers feel the dead hand of bureaucracy. For them change cannot come fast enough.

[Watchmaker Petr Litvak speaking in Russian] The bureaucracy that existed before still survives. It's simply changed its appearance. The bureaucrats speak in the new way, but they still think as they did before. But they'll say otherwise, because they don't want to lose their briefcases, their positions, their black cars—they don't want to lose anything.

[Stock, over video of bank training seminar] From the watchmaker to the cooperative, everybody now needs finance, and banks have to respond. For manager and clerks alike in this Tallinn bank, this is the first awe-inspiring lesson in using checks. It's just one of the reforms facing the banking system. Banks will be self-financing, able to offer loans to enterprises and individuals. Before, people had to borrow from friends or family if they wanted a car or even a house. And when the average Soviet family of four lives in an area 24 by 12 feet, housing is a priority.

[Bank manager Peep Sillandi speaking in English] It's very popular in Estonia to build his own house, because... flats are very cheap. To rent a flat is very cheap in Soviet Union, as you know, but it's not so easy to get such kind of flat. You must waiting here maybe 5, even 10, even more years sometimes, and to live in crowded flat, and not very good flat by your standards.... It's very.... It's not so good a way to bring up your children.

[Stock, over video of bank] The bank has 50,000 clients with an average of 2,000 rubles in each account. Up until now, in a cash-based society, the bank has been primarily a savings institution. Now it will be expected to offer a whole range of banking services. But they still have no computerized clearance or transfer systems, and for the bank manager progress is too slow.

[Sillandi speaking in English] All the changes are taking too much time for my liking. I myself wanted to introduce such kind of technique [as heard] tomorrow, maybe the day after tomorrow, but to wait 5 years till I get them, and not being too certain I get them after 5 years, it's a little bit frustrating.

[Stock, over video of opinion polling] So what do the Soviet people nationally think of perestroyka? Sixteen percent are keen, 13 percent are against, and 71 percent are watchful, according to the recent findings of the first opinion pollsters, demonstrating glasnost on multiple choice sheets. What will the move to self-accounting mean to you? Forty percent didn't have a clue. Twenty-six percent thought it would help, but 33 percent feared it would make life more difficult. And for every person who felt a change, two more couldn't yet see any tangible result from perestroyka in their everyday lives.

[Unidentified man speaking in Estonian] It seems to me that there's now slightly more choice in the shops.

[Unidentified Marat worker speaking in Russian] We've always worked like that. We just earn a little more money now.

[Second unidentified Marat worker speaking in Russian] It's become much better than before. Both the quality of goods and the amount we earn has improved.

[Stock] And do people feel the impact of perestroyka in their daily lives?

[Unidentified Marat woman worker speaking in Russian] Not at all.

[Unidentified Talleks worker speaking in Russian] Practically not at all.

[Aganbegyan speaking in Russian] We can't go back to the old way. The development of the old negative tendencies, of stagnation during the last 15 years, brought our economy to a dead end. We can't return to it. Perestroyka will be carried out.

[Stock, over video of Tallinn railroad station] Willing or not, the citizens of Tallinn are being forced through the hoops of perestroyka. For all Aganbegyan's conviction, the experiment could well not succeed. Tallinn might be in the vanguard of the second great economic revolution. Then again, it could be a footnote that is one day excised from Soviet history books. [end recording]

[Singleton] Francine Stock reporting from Tallinn. And her next report from the USSR in 2 weeks' time will examine the new phenomenon of joint business ventures between the Soviet Union and the West. [passage omitted]

Scientific

'Cosmos-1938' Satellite Launched 11 Apr

LD120652 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0634 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow 12 Apr (TASS)—Another artificial earth satellite, Cosmos-1938, was launched in the Soviet Union on 11 April 1988.

The satellite carries scientific equipment for continuing space research.

The satellite has been placed in orbit with the following parameters:

Initial period of revolution—89.4 mins.

Apogee—316 km.

Perigee—209 km.

Orbital inclination—72.8 degrees.

Besides scientific equipment, the satellite carries:

A radio system for the precise measurement of orbital elements; and

A radiotelemetry system for transmitting to earth data about the work of the instruments and scientific apparatus.

The equipment aboard the satellite is working normally.

The coordinating and computing center is processing the incoming information.

Soviet-Bulgarian Space Mission Rescheduled

LD122113 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Today is Cosmonautics Day. Our correspondent has interviewed Major General Aleksey Arkhipovich Leonov, deputy head of the Gagarin Cosmonauts Training Center. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Leonov] The training program for the Soviet-Bulgarian space crew is drawing to an end. On 15 May we are to conduct the final comprehensive examination. The launch will take place on 7 June. According to the first announcements, we said that around the time of 21 June offers the most favorable conditions for the launch.

Concerning the flight with the Afghan representative, the training is very complicated here. However, we thought that it would be more complicated. It turns out that they have a very high standard of Russian, and they have an excellent understanding of technical questions. They studied with us previously, then continued their studies in civilian higher educational establishments. On the whole, their training is now in full swing, and we are to carry out the launch on 29 August. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Mir' Cosmonauts' Experiments Described

LD122013 Moscow TASS in English 0936 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—By a TASS correspondent reporting from Mission Control Centre:

The Soviet Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are observing their professional holiday, Day of Cosmonautics, in near-earth orbit. Numerous greetings and wishes of success are pouring in to the space station Mir (peace).

Today's schedule on board the manned complex provides for astrophysical and technological experiments, preparation of research equipment for the forthcoming work.

Using their ultra-violet telescope Glazar, the crew will photograph a number of areas in the Great Bear constellation in keeping with a programme of research into space astronomy.

The Korund melting unit is used to produce fine-film structures of silicon in conditions of micro-gravity.

Currents of elementary particles in outer space will be measured using a magnetic spectrometer, Maria.

According to telemetry information and reports by the crew, the flight of the orbital space station Mir is proceeding normally.

Titov and Musa Manarov are feeling fine.